



# The Muscogee Nation News

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## Tribe ready to issue motor vehicle tags beginning in February

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation will begin issuing its own vehicle license tags Feb. 3 at its new location in the McCullough Building at 110 N. Grand.

Vehicle owners are eligible under tribal law if they are enrolled tribal members with proof of membership and as tribal citizens, reside within the jurisdictional boundaries and garage the vehicle within the boundaries.

To receive a tag, applicants must:

- present a valid tribal enrollment card (verified with the tribal citizenship board);
- the tribal member's name must be on the title;
- surrender a verification of owner's insurance security form or equivalent proof of liability insurance coverage;
- surrender the current Oklahoma certificate of title and registration, Oklahoma tag or certificate of origin; and
- sign the affidavit of jurisdiction on the back of Muscogee Nation vehicle registration form. and

If a vehicle has been inoperable for a period of time, it is required to sign an affidavit of inoperable vehicle and furnish a statement from a reputable automobile repair business, with the cost of repairs, the nature of the repair, and a statement that the vehicle appears to have been inoperable at the time repairs were made.

Those seeking license tags for commercial vehicles will be required to affix the proper federal employer identification number to an affidavit of commercial vehicle or affix to each side of the vehicle, the name of the business, in letters or numerals at least one inch tall and in a color contrasting with the vehicle.

A tribal title, registration, and metal tag will be issued with month and year decals. Vehicles must be registered with the tribal tax commission annually at which time new year decals will be issued.

Personalized license tags will be available after July 1.

To avoid assessment of back taxes on a tribally registered vehicle, the Oklahoma Tax Commission is requiring the subsequent owner to obtain and show proof that the previous owner was a member of the tribe.

This proof may be:

- an original or certified copy of a tribal identification card;

please see TAGS..., page 2



photo by Gerald Wofford

Muscogee Nation Principal Chief Perry Beaver, second from left, and other tribal officials break ground for the construction to begin on the Twin Hills Indian Community building. The community is chartered by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Pictured from left, are: Emanuel Morgan, Twin Hills community chair; Principal Chief Beaver; A.O. Ellis, National Council Okmulgee District Representative; Wilbur Gouge, National Council Speaker; and Richard Ellis, Twin Hills community member. Construction is expected to be completed in the spring.



photo by Jim Wolfe

Organizers and beneficiaries of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council-Lighthorse Administration benefit coed basketball tournament gathered for a presentation of the proceeds to representatives of the families of the late Sandra Sands and the late Brenda Smith. The tribal citizens were killed during an armed robbery in September. Pictured from left to right are: Floyd Jones, tribal environmental services administration; Marsey Scot, lighthorse chief; Ruthie Burgess, National Council recording secretary; Wilbur Gouge, National Council Speaker; Bill Fraser, Connie Smith; and Gerald Smith.

# Letters to the editor

Citizen desires contact

**Editor:**

Richard Marlow Wesley was seriously injured in an accident in Florida in August 1996. He was in a coma for three weeks and was not expected to recover. Through God's blessing, he is now able to speak and is slowly recovering his ability to walk.

He has expressed a desire to hear from people back home. His phone number is (954) 989-1968. The address is: Richard Wesley, 6450 James W. Billie Dr., Hollywood, FL 33024.

Thanks to all churches that were praying for him and all who have been of help to him.

**Betty Tilley, Wetumka**

Citizen thanks contract health

**Editor:**

We would like to say *mwto* to the Muscogee Nation contract health service, Sapulpa Indian Health Center, tribal social services, Okemah Indian Health Clinic, Creek Nation Community Hospital, all staff, and Anita Mobley, case manager, for their help with Lyle Perryman's recent hospitalization at Tulsa Regional Medical Center.

We also express our appreciation to those who gave provisions, flowers, cards, love, prayers, phone calls, and visits.

Lyle and our family, appreciate every deed that each and every one did for us. He is now home regaining his health very slowly. We will not forget the kindness shown to our family.

**Sue Perryman, Drumright**

Citizen thanks housing authority

**Editor:**

I want to thank the Creek Nation Housing Authority for coming into my home and making it easier to

## Tribal citizen seeks Morris school board seat

MORRIS — Tribal citizen Russell Torbett has declared his candidacy for election to Office Number Two of the Morris School Board. The five-year term will be decided Feb. 11.

Torbett was born in Okmulgee, where his family has owned and operated Torbett Printing Company since 1926. He is employed as a grant proposal writer with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. He has also worked as the Creek Nation Housing Authority. He is a graduate of Oklahoma State University, Stillwater and is completing his master's degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma. He also holds Oklahoma teaching certification in social studies.

He is married to the former Leah Gaither of Morris. They have three sons.

"My priorities include improving both the scope and caliber of programs available and establishment of a Foundation to support the school system."

"I encourage all tribal members to vote on Feb.



Torbett

get around. They rebuilt my bathroom and added ramps where I can get in and out of my house. (I lost my right leg to diabetes). The tribe has stood by me the 16 years I've lived in my home. Many thanks.

**Lena Sample, Coweta**

Citizen thanks donors

**Editor:**

On behalf of my son, Lance Washington, I would like to thank everyone who helped him raise money for the Tulsa baby pageant — a Lions Club charity fund-raiser.

**Donna Washington, Okmulgee**

Citizen thankful for support

**Editor:**

Our family extends a warm and special "thank you" to all family members, relatives, and friends for their expression of love and welcome gifts for our daughter.

**Shannon Harp, Tulsa**

Executive office thankful for donations

**Editor:**

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Administration wishes to express our appreciation for the donation toward the Christmas lights (displayed at the tribal capitol complex). We also thank the tribal maintenance department for arranging and hanging the lights.

**Judy Moore, Office of the Principal Chief**

School organizer grateful

**Editor:**

We would like to thank the Mason School American Indian day presenters for making our program a success. Speakers making presentations on their tribal cultures were: Ladonna Brown and Terri Alexander, both Chickasaw; Ramona Wilson Harjo and Mae

Wilson, both Choctaw; Louise Burgess and Ralph Henneha Jr., both Muskogee; Archie Mason, Osage; and Lewis Johnson, Seminole. We extend our gratitude to the ladies of Okfuskee Indian Community for providing good fry bread also.

**Geneva Douglas, Mason**

## Legal Notice

Printed in The Muscogee Nation News, volume 26, issue 1, January 1997.

In the matter of Noah Berryhill, minor Creek child, case no. JV 94-41. Notice of hearing to the unknown father of Noah Berryhill.

You are hereby given notice of hearing on the above-styled and numbered case for the purpose of termination of your parental rights in the district court room of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, tribal complex at Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 15th day of January, 1997 at 1:30 p.m.

You are hereby informed that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remain ward of the court and custody be continued in the children and family services administration program for continued foster placement or possible pre-adoptive placement.

You are further informed that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

I have hereunto set my hand this 10th day of December, 1996.

(s) Patrick E. Moore, district court judge

## The Muscogee Nation News

*The Muscogee Nation News* is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions is the third Friday of every month. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar.

*The Muscogee Nation News* is mailed to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

James Wolfe, managing editor  
Stephanie B. Berryhill, senior staff writer  
Summer Barnes, secretary

### Tags

continued from page 1

- an original or certified copy of a certificate of Indian blood stating tribal affiliation;
- a certificate of tribal membership.

A copy of the proof of tribal membership must accompany the title register and registration receipt.

Registration fees will be based on the vehicle's factory delivery price and number of years the vehicle has been registered. The fee schedule has been established by National Council Act 95-81.

Should a vehicle be sold to a non-tribal member, the seller should obtain a certificate of tribal membership to accompany the tribal title when signed over to a non-tribal member.

For additional information, contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tax Commission at 1 (800) 482-1979 or (918) 756-8700, ext. 393. For information regarding tribal citizenship, call (918) 756-8700, ext. 224.

# National Council approves new gaming commissioner

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) National Council approved the nomination of Eugene "Sonny" Hill as the tribe's gaming commissioner at its December meeting.

Hill was a regulatory compliance auditor for the office of public gaming before being nominated by Principal Chief Perry Beaver. The position had been vacant since the term of former commissioner Rocky McIntosh expired in September. Former Council member Nelson Johnson, interim gaming commissioner, was named a special consultant on gaming matters to the Principal Chief.

Hill will have regulatory compliance oversight of the five bingo halls licensed by the tribe.

The 33-year-old Glenpool resident was confirmed by a 17-6 vote.

Voting for Hill's confirmation were (representatives listed alphabetically followed by district):

**Mike Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa; **Steve Bruner**, Tulsa; **Johnson Buck**, Tukvptce; **Helen Chupeo**, Muskogee; **Clyde Johnson**, Okfuskec; **Jess Kelley**, Tulsa; **Harley Little**, Muskogee; **Abe McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **Thomas McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh; **George Tiger**, Creek; **Phyllis Warrington**, Creek; **Nancy Watson**, Okfuskee; **Earl Wheeler**, Creek; **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce.

Voting no were: **Irene Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **A.D. Ellis**, Okmulgec; **Barbara Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Anderson Hale**, Okmulgee; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Ron Cleghorn**, Tulsa.

Absent was **Bruce Smith**, Okfuskee. Speaker

## Program briefs

Hospital administrator picked

OKEMAH — The Muscogee Nation Health Administration has hired Phillip Barnoski as administrator of Creek Nation Community Hospital. Barnoski began working with the hospital as a budget analyst in 1994 and later became the deputy administrator.

Barnoski, a Tahlequah native, is 30-years-old. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Northeastern State University, Tahlequah. Barnoski was previously employed as a finance consultant for the city of Tulsa.

Tribal voters reminded to update records

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board encourages tribal citizens who have become eighteen (18) years of age as well as those who have not registered, to do so and vote in tribal elections. Upon request, the election office will mail registration applications. Eligible citizens may register in person at the election board office at the tribal capitol complex weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Upon request, voter registration applications and information will be mailed.

Voters are reminded to keep their records current. For more information contact, Nettie Harjo at (918) 756-8700, ext. 350 or 1(800) 482-1979.

Higher education accepting applications

OKMULGEE — Muscogee Nation higher education program is accepting application requests for the 1997-98 academic year. Students must:

Wilbur Gouge conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In other business, the Council:

— approved (13-12) National Council Act 95-127 appropriating funding for hardship assistance specifically for citizens living outside the tribal boundaries. The tie breaking vote was cast by Gouge.

Voting yes were: **Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Kelley**, Tulsa; **Lowe**, Tukvptce; **T. McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Tiger**, Creek; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Wheeler**, Creek;

Voting no were: **Bruner**, Tulsa; **Buck**, Tukvptce; **Chupeo**, Muskogee; **I. Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Hale**, Okmulgee; **Johnson**, Okfuskee; **Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Little**, Muskogee; **A. McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **Yahola**, Tukvptce;

— rejected (15-9) a bill establishing a priority list for appropriations request through the Council's business and governmental operations committee.

Voting against adoption were: **Bible**, Tulsa; **Buck**, Tukvptce; **Chupeo**, Muskogee; **I. Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **R. Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Hale**, Okmulgee; **Kelley**, Tulsa; **Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Little**, Muskogee; **Niebols**, Okmulgee; **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Wheeler**, Creek; **Yahola**, Tukvptce.

Voting for approval were: **Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Bruner**, Tulsa; **Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Johnson**, Okfuskee; **Lowe**, Tukvptce; **A. McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **T. McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Tiger**,

- possess a Certificate Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) or tribal enrollment card;

- attend or plan to attend an 2- or 4-year accredited college or university studying toward an associate's or bachelor's degree;

- apply for federal financial aid (FAFSA) at their college financial aid office and be eligible for Pell grants; and

- submit a written request for applications for the undergraduate and tribal funds grant.

Creek; **Warrington**, Creek;

— approved (23-1) NCA 96-105 appropriating \$131,689 from the interest on the permanent fund account for the emergency home improvement program. The bill also repeals conflicting legislation and establishes new guidelines.

Voting no was **Hale**, Okmulgee;

— approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 96-112 appropriating \$3.8 million from the fiscal year 1997 Indian Health Service funding;

— approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 96-115 establishing the terms of office for the tribal election board;

— approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 96-116 authorizing a land purchase in Hughes County for the tribe's Head Start center at Yeager;

— approved unanimously (24-0) a continuing ordinance releasing another 8.3 percent of the FY 1997 comprehensive annual budget to continue tribal operations through January;

— approved (19-5) the confirmation of tribal citizen **Mike McCoy** of Tulsa, to the gaming operations authority board.

Voting against the confirmation were: **R. Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Lewis**, Okmulgee; **A. McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Watson**, Okfuskee;

— approved unanimously (24-0) the confirmation of tribal citizen **Famous Marshall** of Okemah to the tribe's election board. Marshall replaces the seat vacated by **Mary Peak** of Tulsa.

The Council's next regular session will be Jan. 25 at the tribal capitol complex.

Applications will be mailed February through May. Complete applications must be returned June 1 for the undergraduate grant and June 15 for the tribal grant. Continuing students will be sent renewal applications. Send written requests for applications Higher Education, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447. For more information, contact Chanenna Davis at (918) 756-8700 exts. 614, 615, 616 or 1-800-482-1979.

## Speaker extends New Year's greetings

On behalf of the National Council, I would like to wish the citizens of the Nation a "Happy New Year". May it be a prosperous one.

The National Council in its endeavor to create a government that is stable and self-sufficient, has worked ardently this past year and will continue to make significant improvements toward that goal in 1997.

The Council again will be faced with many problems this year, both new and recurring. Many solutions may not be popular to a few, but every decision made by the Council will be made for the best interest of the citizens of the Muscogee Nation.

At the top of the Council's priority list for the new year is the tribal budget. The Council is in a budget review process now. Each committee is reviewing the budget for programs under their jurisdiction. When that is completed, it will be brought before the whole Council for its approval.

It may appear at times that the Council has put the Nation in check by not approving the tribal bud-

get when it was first received. The budget is not only a mechanism for the operation of the tribe, but also a method used to insure that all tribal resources are utilized to provide maximum results, whether it is for economic development, education, employment, or direct client services. It is the National Council's obligation to you, as a Muscogee (Creek) citizen, that the tribal budget is thoroughly reviewed then approved by the whole Council.

The continued success of this Nation, and its ability to provide for its people, rests not only with its elected officials, but also with its employees and most importantly, its citizens, all working together for the advancement and survival of the great Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Again, I wish you a "Happy New Year." Myto for your patience. I also encourage you to attend the meetings of the National Council or just come by and visit.

Wilbur Gouge, Speaker

# Polly Miller Homma



by Stephanie Berryhill

At 96 years old, original allottee Polly Miller Homma has a mind sharper than most adults one-third of her age.

An invaluable source of tribal and local history, folklore, and information, she can recall — with great detail — events and memories that occurred in her life well over 80 years ago.

Polly was born northwest of Okmulgee to Seborn and Effa Berryhill Miller on Feb. 18, 1900. She belongs to the Wind Clan and Kvncate Tribal Town. She is a lifelong member of Newtown [Tvlofy Mucvse] United Methodist Church and their oldest living member.

Her family history predates that of the most prominent *estehutce* families of Okmulgee. It is intertwined in such a way that it cannot be separated from the area's history.

Not only does she remember the details of events that occurred in her early childhood, but she also can recount details of experiences her family had before and during removal as told by her grandmother Peggy Anderson Berryhill, her father, and other elders.

Polly explained some of the difficulty involved in trying to learn the specifics of oral history — it is inevitable that something will be lost or omitted in the second, third, and fourth (etc.) recounts of information.

"When the old people came to see us, once in a while they'd tell you something — in part. That's the way I heard, all the time, what happened.... They'd tell a little bit and a little bit and you never [could] put together all of [it].... When an Indian talk, old people, they don't tell where [events took place]. So we [were] listening to that what they told so we [wouldn't] miss it."

Polly said that her maternal grandfather, Jefferson Berryhill, was Scottish-Irish. As he died before she was born, his half-brother, David Logan (D.L.) Berryhill, raised the Miller children as his grandchildren. She believes they were born of different mothers, as D.L. was half Mvskoke.

Berryhill family members told her that Scottis-Irish Berryhills to covet the Mvskoke girls because of their beauty. They approached the mekko of one town asking his permission to marry its girls. The chief consented, also permitting them to establish homesteads just outside of the boundaries of the town.

Her father was a first generation citizen of Muscogee Nation, Indian Territory. He was born to Samuel and Paula Whitebird Miller, [a sister to Opothleyahola] both full-blood Mvskokvle that had made the journey to Indian Territory together while children.

"Papa's father was little boy and that Paula Whitebird was a little girl. They all come together — walked. [They] never had any book or nothing, cause they didn't take nothing out of the house. They locked [their houses]; they kind of knew it was going to happen, but they didn't know when. [It] was spring, so they were making garden and they had wild peaches in that country. So they take it and plant it just about right that year — those peaches — [they knew they

were going to be moved] so they get mad and they had an axe and they chopped it down. 'We're not going to let those white people eat it off of this,' they said and some of them did. While they were at it, already, soldier was there catching all the Indians."

Polly said that the family of her paternal grandfather had buried records of their family history, as well as possessions, before leaving Alabama.

"...they hide it underground. They had a meeting there all the time and they made a furniture, new one, and [the underground hiding place was] just like a house, but the trees growed on it; but there was a way to get in. But they took all their books on the Creek language — their own language, they [wrote it] and they put everything in there."

They took that out so many years ago. Who got it, I don't know...furniture was new-like; they made it themselves...[archaeologists?] were in there, said, there was just nothing spoiled. They knew how to fix it [to prevent it from rotting.]"

Homma said her father was living at the time the possessions were found and believes he was notified of its whereabouts, although this information was never imparted to her. Although her father didn't not speak English, Polly recalls he was continually sought by the Oklahoma Historical Society and other historical groups for his knowledge. Renowned tribal leader Samuel Checote, serving as a translator, often took him to Oklahoma City and Tulsa at the request of these groups.

By 1861, Mvskoke people had been in Indian territory around 30 years. Various tribal factions had just begun to adjust to a new form of government when the Civil War erupted. After the Civil War, the Muscogee Nation began to reorganize and ratified its 1867 constitution. It provided for executive, legislative, and judicial branches, thus the need for a tribal capitol was inevitable. The first Council building was constructed in 1868 upon the site at which the Council House Museum currently stands. Jefferson Berryhill was contracted to build two large fireplaces in the original, two-story log structure. His son, Pleasant "Duke" Berryhill, was captain of the tribe's law enforcement — the Lighthorse Company. He played a major role in the last execution under Mvskoke law.

Timmie Jack, a Yuchi-Creek, had killed a friend in a drunken brawl and was sentenced to death by an Indian jury. Jack is said to have "tried out" his coffin and calmly said good-bye to all his friends. Prepared for his May 1, 1896 execution, Jack chose his best friend — Duke Berryhill — as executioner.

Homma recounted the conversation he had with his mother — Peggy Berryhill — on and around the day of execution. A firsthand account of the conversation was told to Homma by her grandmother Berryhill.

"He came home and said, 'I'm gonna kill my best friend. If I could bend [the gun] a little bit that way — even [if] I point it right at him, that bullet wouldn't hit him.' They put a mark where they gonna hit...his heart. He said, 'even [if] he didn't get killed — [if] he lived, why, he could live; that's the law.' So he didn't want to kill him. He fixed it all night, heat that gun — tried

to bend it. 'Just a little I could bend it,' he said. 'I know I'll miss it.' And then that day he gonna kill [he said] — 'I don't know how much I bend it or what. I don't know, but I have to do it.' That time come; I guess everybody, a lot of them, watching. He said, 'I hit him right in his heart; I killed him. I didn't want to do it and I tried to miss him. I tried my best all night and yet I hit him right in his heart.'

The site and a brief recount of the execution is marked by a plaque at the northeast corner of the Council House.

The secret to her astute mind — "I don't know; when people ask me things I answer them right off, I don't know where I keep it (knowledge). Sometimes when I get sick I forget things, but I never do forget the old-timers."

Homma fondly recollects the fish kills *Tvlofv Mucvse* and Little Cussetah Methodist church members and other *Muskokvlke*

would hold on the banks of the Deep Fork River. Homma and her family would camp on the south side of the river bank overnight. In the morning the men would make "fish medicine and beat it up in the water. As long as that medicine floating in the water, the fish get drunk." D.L. Berryhill, served as the leader and determined when the fish were drunk enough to be caught.

One of the last and most memorable fish kills of that era occurred when she was a young girl. As the children watched the men spearing and gathering the fish, a great thrust of water was seen coming in the river. The women shouted to all in the water "hurry up ya'll! Get out of the water! It's something big!" [It] was just like something big under there making splash." The only person remaining in the water was a heavy-set man who could not move as quickly as the others. He was cornered up against an eastern cliff wall as the furrowed water rushed toward him. "He [couldn't] see it, but he pounded it over its head. It went to the west and come back again and he pounded it again ... that second time it died and it turned over."

"It looked like *pvtoksa*," Homma said. "They didn't know what it was, but it was the biggest *pvtoksa* we ever saw. I don't know the English word for it," she said referring to the huge flathead catfish.

Homma said its size was relative to the eastern cliff. "They pulled it up that cliff and its tail was still hanging in the water. It was bigger than a cow and tall too."

Two non-Indian men offered them assistance in

hauling the *pvtoksa* up the cliff wall. She believes word of their catch spread rapidly because it was soon the talk of Okmulgee County. "People in Henryetta and Schulter heard about it. I don't know why we didn't get someone to take our picture, but Indians never care[d] about reporting and taking pictures."

Homma recalls the era when Newtown was called *Tvlofv Mucvse*. "No one could say *Tvlofv Mucvse*, so they turn around and say English."

She remembers the day the church received electricity and the hub bub it stirred among the church women around 1910. Church member Stella Hanes had married non-Indian Tennessee native Porter Cox, whose physical appearance and dress was of great curiosity to the children. He was an electrician by trade and offered to provide electrical service to *Tvlofv Mucvse*. Most women were in favor of it, as the children often burned themselves by coming in contact with the wood burning stoves. But one elder church mother, reluctant to give up her wood stove, protested and said she would not stand for it. When the day came for the church vote upon the electricity issue, she was the first to jump up in support of it, Homma said. The woman's daughter exclaimed, "'But mama, I thought you didn't want it,'" and she replied, "'Well, I changed my mind.'"

Homma was born paralyzed on the right side of her body. When she was a little girl, she would sit on her grandmother Berryhill's camphouse porch, longing to climb trees and play with the other children. They did not want her around; being partially crippled, she could not walk very well and often had to be picked up when she fell down.

Ironically, she has outlived most of her peers despite never having been physically healthy. She reasons that being confined to her home, she didn't physically exert and abuse herself much as her able-bodied peers did.

"One thing, all the life I live, look like I wasn't away. I couldn't go away from my mother cause she was always there to pick me up when I fall."

Women visiting her mother's camphouse would say to her, "'Why don't you go play with those other kids? Children aren't supposed to hang around their mama.' But I was quiet and didn't say anything, neither did mama. She didn't take up for me."

Because the other children rejected her attempts to play with them, Homma occupied her childhood years listening to the adults' conversations. She contends her ability to listen is why she is so knowledgeable. "That's how come I know so much about people and the church."

When she was young, *Tvlofv Mucvse* church members would camp and hold services from Wednesday through Monday morning. Services were held on Wednesdays and Thursdays, she said. The members fasted on Fridays; on Saturdays, they went into town to purchase food goods. "They had all Indian food — *tvklik tokse, sofke*, spare ribs, all kinds of hominy, grape dumplings. They had all kinds of food; they never lacked for nothing. We were well fed children."

Mondays were reserved for discussing church busi-

ness and holding "forgiving" services in which children were not allowed to attend. She recounted the story of two adversaries who had made a commitment to forgive each other during one Monday morning service. The two women were brought to the front of the church by the pastor. Instead of offering a pardon, one of the women had hidden a stick under her apron, pulled it out and hit the other woman over the head.

"Boy they had a battle. The church was just small, box size. The church was falling down and everybody cornering up. The old ones couldn't [physically] hold everyone up. They had a great battle in that church and there was no more forgiving; it was worse than ever."

Homma believes the church has changed drastically — for better and worse — since she was a child. She contends the length of campmeetings and services are getting shorter and shorter. Just after the turn of the century, up to a dozen camphouses resided on the church ground — full of activity. The construction of the church's fellowship hall marked the end of its family-occupied camphouse tradition. Homma misses those days, but thinks some changes are for the good. When the fellowship hall was constructed, the expense involved in upkeep and feeding at individual camps was no longer economically feasible, she said.

As Homma is bedfast, her fragile condition rarely allows her to leave her home or attend church. She still derives strength from God and her Christian faith. "When the Lord wants you to know something he tells you — in a dream or a whisper — he gives you that feeling. I'm always laying here with [that] wonderful feeling."

Although Homma lives alone, her small home is always buzzing with friends, relatives, and home health nurses who constantly come to visit and check on her.

"I always said I never will go to the nursing home and I have kept that vow. I'm never sorry for myself or lonesome. I love to visit; people just come and go. I know many people and I'm always glad to see them come and when that person leaves, someone else comes. I'm just happy. I'm glad that God let me live this long."

**Editor's note:** a portion of this article was first published in *The Muscogee Nation News*, Vol. 22, Iss. 4.



David Logan Berryhill



David Logan Berryhill

## Education briefs

### Oktaha drum major leads band to first

**MUSKOGEE** — Oktaha High School drum major Crystal Gragg led her high school band to first place in the Muskogee Phoenix Christmas Parade.

The band placed in division II under the direction of Tom Owens.

Gragg is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gragg of Oktaha.



Gragg

### Siblings distinguished as achievers

**SHAWNEE** — North Rock Creek School students Billy, Laura, and Linda McClellan have all received commendation from superintendent Jim Langston.

B. McClellan received the achiever of the month award in his kindergarten class for November. The award establishes that he has demonstrated significant improvement and progress compared to his previous efforts in academics and citizenship.

Laura McClellan earned the citizen of the month award in the first grade for the month of November. She has been a positive role model in her class by being the most courteous, cooperative, and helpful. She has obeyed school rules, put forth extra effort, and has been in regular attendance also.

Linda McClellan earned the achiever of the month award in her first grade class for the month of October. She also has demonstrated significant improvement and progress compared to her previous efforts in academics and citizenship.

All three children were presented certificates and medals during school-wide assemblies. In addition, their photographs were displayed in the main lobby of their school.

They are the children of Benji McClellan, Shawnee.

### Mason School holds American Indian day

**MASON** — Mason Indian Education staff held an American Indian Day for kindergarten through sixth grade students.

The staff hosted speakers of the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Mvskoke, Osage, and Seminole tribes. Among speakers making presentations on their tribal cultures were: Ladonna Brown and Terri Alexander, both Chickasaw; Ramona Wilson Harjo and Mae Wilson, both Choctaw; Louise Burgess and Ralph Henneha Jr., both Mvskoke; Archie Mason, Osage; and Lewis Johnson, Seminole.

In addition to speakers, the staff provided clan bingo games and fry bread for all attending.

A spring culture program is being planned for the Mason School upper grades.

### Second Indian all-state games scheduled

**ENID** — Phillips University and Community Health Promotions are hosting the second Indian All-state Games from June 12 through 14.

The Indian All-state Games combines basketball competition with individual development in areas

such as leadership and self-esteem. It will include programs geared for the Native American student in the college admission process also.

The games originated in 1995 in an effort to provide Oklahoma youth of American Indian backgrounds a forum for developing skills they need to be successful in college as well as showcase the talent they have developed.

They were initiated through the nonprofit organization, Community Health Promotion; it is dedicated to "promoting the health and well-being of the American Indian and rural communities through professionally organized and coordinated athletic, recreational, educational, and research activities."

The games will be followed by a series of clinics made by the all-staters for other Native American youth. In addition, these students will receive follow-up support once they enter college.

Participants are student-athletes selected from hundreds of nominees in Oklahoma.

For more information, contact B.J. Smith, director, at: (405) 548-2347 or CHP at: (918) 793-7361.

### Graduate center accepting applications

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.** — The American Indian Graduate Center is accepting fellowship application requests for the 1987-98 academic year.

Students must:

- be an enrolled member of a federally-recognized American Indian tribe or Alaska Native group in the U.S. or possess one quarter degree (federally recognized) Indian blood;
- be (or will be) pursuing a masters or doctorate degree as a full time graduate student at an accredited graduate school in the U.S.; and
- apply for campus-based aid through the federal financial aid process at their college financial aid office by June 1.

New applicants will be subject to a one-time non-refundable application fee of \$25 that must accompany the application. Applications are due by June 2. For more information, call: (505) 881-4584.

### Harvard recruiting Native students

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.** — The Harvard Native American Program is seeking Native Americans interested in joining its academically challenging and culturally diverse community.

The program is committed to recruiting and graduating students by providing them with the academic resources and community support necessary to succeed at Harvard and beyond. Approximately 120 native students currently attend Harvard University — 45 at the undergraduate level and 75 at the graduate level.

This year the program has expanded its academic and research components through the creation of a new course titled Native Americans in the 21st Century: Nation Building I and II. Through this hands-on interdisciplinary course, students have an opportunity to work with Indian nations and tribes.

For more information, call the program at: (617) 495-4923; or write, Harvard University Native American Program, HGSE, Read House, Appian Way, Cambridge, MA 02138.

### University promotes tribal law center

**LAWRENCE, Kan.** — The Tribal Law and Government Center at the University of Kansas School of Law was founded in 1995 to prepare a new generation

of advocates for careers representing the legal interests of Indian nations and tribes.

The center also provides a forum for research and scholarship regarding tribal legal and governance issues.

To achieve these objectives, the center operates three programs: the tribal lawyer certificate program; the Haskell Indian Nations University-KU Tribal Lawyer Training Program; and the tribal law and governance research program.

For more information, call: (913) 864-4550; or write, University of Kansas School of Law, Tribal Law and Government Center, Green Hall, Lawrence, KS 66045.

### Berkeley seeks students for program

**BERKELEY, Calif.** — The American Indian Graduate Program is seeking American Indian and Alaska Native students to apply for graduate programs.

Those programs include: business administration; chemistry; education; engineering; environmental design; ethnic studies; journalism; law; letters and sciences; natural resources; optometry; public health; public policy; and social welfare.

For more information, call or write: (510) 642-3228 (collect); American Indian Graduate Program, 140 Warren Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-7360.

### Native American program graduates class

**NORMAN** — The Native American studies program at The University of Oklahoma graduated its first class

An event its director, Clara Sue Kidwell, Choctaw-Chippewa, believes to be historical.

"We are extremely proud of not only the graduating class, but also the overall growth and development of the NAS program. It has come a long ways in terms of curriculum, faculty, recruitment, retention, and graduation over the past year. We now offer not only a core curriculum, but also some cross-referenced classes in cooperation with other colleges and departments. Of the most importance is the image we are building throughout the nation, state, local, and tribal communities. We are very excited about the language classes and the tribal focused seminars and workshops for this year. In time I expect the program to be one of the nation's finest, not only in academics, but also instruction and services."

Program faculty include: Barbara Hobson, Comanche, assistant director; and Jerry C. Bread, Kiowa-Cherokee, outreach and recruitment.

Current NAS activities include, but are not limited to: the revitalization of the Sequoyah Club as a means to preserving native culture and educating majors about the contemporary ceremonies of American Indians; researching and organizing a contemporary tribal leader summit; identifying and securing scholarships; developing and implementing internships in Indian related organizations; establishing communication networks with tribes, businesses, organizations, and other institutions of higher learning; and bringing NAS scholars to campus to interact with majors and the university community.

For more information write: Native American Studies Program, Dale Hall Tower, Room 804, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019.

## Births and birthdays

### Hanna Boyce

OKMULGEE — Hanna Elizabeth Boyce was born Oct. 7 at Okmulgee Memorial Hospital to Jenna Boyce.

She weighed 9 pounds, 5 and one-half ounces.

Boyce is the granddaughter of Karen Mackey of Glenpool and John and Mary Boyce of Tulsa.

Her great-grandmother is Sylvia Lee of Beggs. Boyce, Muscogee-Euchee, is the great-great-granddaughter of the late Lena Lowe Murphy.

### Levi Fish

ADA — Levi Fish was born Aug. 14 at Carl Albert Indian Hospital to Nico Miller and Marcus Fish.

The baby weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces and was 18 inches in length.

Her maternal grandmother is Josephine McGirt of Lamar. Her great-grandfather is John McGirt of Maud. She is the great-niece of Mildred Walter of Lamar.

Paternal grandparents are Wynema and the late Wadley Fish of Wetumka.



Boyce



Fish

### Tyler Harp

TULSA — Tyler Ashton Harp was born Oct. 14 at Hillcrest Medical Center to Bill and Shannon Jones Harp.

She weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces and was 20 and one-half inches in length.

She is the first grandchild of maternal grandparents Bill and Diane Jones of Tulsa.

Harp is also the first grandchild of paternal grandparents Ray and Sandy Harp of Palm Springs, Calif.

The baby, of Muscogee-Choctaw descent, is the great-granddaughter of: Elmer and Mahaley Jones of Okmulgee; the late Ella Mae Bell Harley of Idabel; and the late Walton E. Bell Sr. of Tulsa.

She is the niece of Shane Jones and Clay and Jeff Harp.



Harp

### Head Start student celebrates fourth birthday

BEGGS — Karissa Malynn Berryhill celebrated her fourth birthday Oct. 20.

She is the daughter of Michael Berryhill of Denver, Colo. and Kara Crook of Beggs.

She is the granddaughter of: Thomas and Janice Berryhill of Duck Creek; Jean Wacoche Berryhill of Lawrence, Kan.; and Wendell and Deanna Crook of Beggs.

Her great-grandparents are: Thomas and the late Blanche Berryhill of Wilson; Elizabeth Porter of Coweta; Eula and the late Roy Swanson of Beggs; and Lillie Crook, Beggs.

Berryhill is the daughter of the Raccoon Clan and Tukvptce Tribal Town. She is a student at Muscogee Nation Head Start in Okmulgee.



Berryhill

### Del City girl celebrates first birthday

OKLAHOMA CITY — Jaycie LaRaine Roberts, Muscogee-Chickasaw, celebrated her first birthday on Nov. 16 at Chuck E. Cheese with several family members and friends attending.

Roberts belongs to the Bird Clan and Hickory Ground Tribal Town.

She is the daughter of Jennifer Frye and Brandon "Jay" Roberts of Del City.

Roberts is the granddaughter of Johnny and Marion Frye of Del City and Evelyn Greenwood of Tulsa.

She is the great-granddaughter of: the late James Bunny; Lucille Smith Bunny; Harbie and Mae Frye of Henryetta; the late Hepsie Walker Frye; and Geraldine and the late Virgil Greenwood of Ada.

### Boy receives first place in Tulsa Baby Show

TULSA — Lance Steven Washington received first



Roberts

place in his division in the Tulsa Baby Show Pageant held Nov. 16 at Brady Theater.

As a contestant, he helped raise over \$300 for the Lions Club charity. The event was Washington's third baby pageant. He placed second at a local pageant held in October.

The 17-month-old boy is the son of Donna Washington.

His maternal grandparents are Donald and Jeanette Washington of Morris.

He is the great-grandson of Lillian Washington of Okmulgee.

### Boy a member of star conference champs

HENRYETTA — Henryetta 5th-grader Brian Barnett played with Henryetta Little Knights — star conference 96 champs with a 8-0 season record.

Barnett's position was defense linebacker and tight end. His team is the second fifth grade team to win the championship and the first to go undefeated in 19 years.

Team coaches were Billy Moore and Geronimo Tecumseh.

Barnett is the son of Elaine Barnett of Tulsa.

He is the grandson of Dicey and Ed Barnett of Henryetta.



Barnett

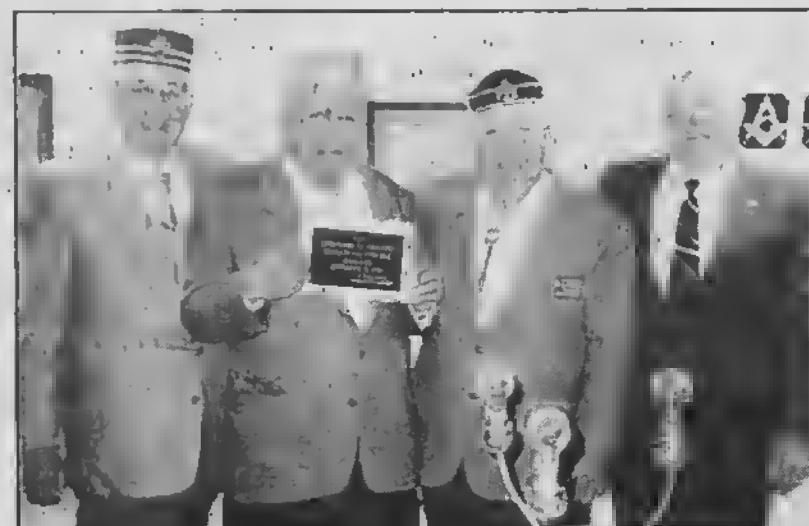
### Masons dedicate museum and library in name of tribal citizen

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — On Sept. 21 New Mexico Scottish Rite Masons formerly dedicated the Geronimo Alexander Museum and Library at Temple Lodge No. 6 in the name of the Broken Arrow tribal citizen.

Alexander, a 32nd degree Mason, has been an active member of this fraternal organization for 43 years.

The decision to name the museum and library after Alexander was made by official lodge vote "because he was so well liked among the members. He had been active in the lodge for a number of years and he was just so well thought of... he's really missed here," said Hugh Formhals, lodge secretary.

Alexander, a resident of Albuquerque from 1940 through 1987, served 10 years as an instructor to potential candidates as they were required to learn the rituals by memory.



Standing in the museum, left to right, are: Grady E. Raybon Jr., treasurer of Temple Lodge No. 6; Geronimo Alexander; F. Dale Smith, master of Temple Lodge No. 6; and Ernest R. Hazelwood.

Alexander celebrated his 89th birthday on Sept. 20 with a traditional Indian dinner held in the Shannon home.

## Muscogee obituaries

### MARTHA BIGPOND

**OAKHURST** — Funeral services for Martha Ann Lowe Bigpond were held Dec. 2 at Indian Fellowship Baptist with Revs. William and Jim Alexander officiating.

Wake services were held Dec. 1 at the church.

Bigpond died Nov. 28 after as the result of a lengthy illness.

She was born Oct. 27, 1948 in Claremore to Samuel and Nancy Tiger Lowe. Bigpond was a member of Indian Fellowship Baptist.

She was preceded in death by: her parents; and one sister, Betty Lowe Tulsa.

She is survived by: two daughters, Tonya Louise Bigpond Bradshears and Ida Beth Bigpond, both of Tulsa; one son, Louis Scott Bigpond of Tulsa; four grandchildren; one sister, Augustine Lowe Willie of Okmulgee; two nephews; two nieces; and one aunt, Pauline Lowe of Bakersfield, Calif.

Interment was in the Bigpond Family Cemetery.

### AUGUSTA BURDEN

**WELEETKA** — Funeral services for Augusta Burden were held Nov. 28 at First Free Will Baptist Church.

Burden died Dec. 24. She was born Sept. 20, 1900 in Weleetka to A.P. and Polly Ben Stephenson. She was raised in the Weleetka area and attended Mission Bottom Indian Boarding School. In 1918 she was married to A.J. Burden. They made Weleetka their lifelong home where they farmed and raised livestock. She was a longtime member of Hvtcecvp v Baptist Church where she was baptized and converted at age nine. She is remembered as one who loved people and visiting. She was caring and giving to those in need and helped raised many children in addition to her own. Burden enjoyed working in her garden and crocheting in her spare time.

Burden was preceded in death by her husband in July 1966.

She is survived by: a son, Bill Burden; daughter, Geneva Hunt; daughter-in-law, Dorothy Burden; and a sister, Lucille Nussbaum, all of Weleetka; five grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and many relatives and friends.

Interment was in Weleetka Hillcrest Cemetery.

### ALINE HENRY

**CHECOTAH** — Funeral services for Aline H. Henry were held Nov. 22 at Smith Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Larry Ensninger officiating.

She died Nov. 20 in Muskogee.

Henry was born Oct. 23, 1913 in Checotah to John Turner and Virgie McIntosh Henshaw. She had lived in the Checotah area since 1979. She was a retail sales person with Charott. Henry was a member of the First Baptist Church of Checotah.

She is survived by: three sisters, Hattie Henshaw, Anna Lee Tagney, and Mary Armstrong, all of Checotah; one brother, Pete Henshaw of Checotah; two nephews, Larry Armstrong of Broken Arrow and Ronald McDaniel of Perkins; one niece, Joan Holladay of Paris, Texas; and a host of friends and relatives.

Interment was in Greenlawn Cemetery.

### LINDY LEWIS

**WELEETKA** — Funeral services for Lindy

Rhoda Lewis were held Dec. 9 at Alabama Baptist Church with Revs. Eugene Whitlow, Mitchell Taylor, and Harry Long officiating.

She died at home, Weleetka, Dec. 6.

She was born March 20, 1922 in Weleetka to Levi and Liza Cubbie Manley. She was raised in the Weleetka area. She lived most of her life in Weleetka with the exception of a short period in Shamrock, Texas. As she was often called upon to cook for many functions Muscogee-Seminole-Wichita Baptist Association, Lewis is remembered as an excellent cook. She was active in the MSW and enjoyed travels affiliated with the association. She was baptized on Mother's Day in 1961. Lewis was affiliated with Alabama Baptist Church.

Preceding her in death were: her parents; three brothers, Jacob, Tarbie, and Jonas; and one sister, Elizabeth.

Survivors include: four sons, Al Wise of Phoenix, Ariz., Bill Wise, London Harjo, and Jacob Lewis, all of Weleetka; one daughter, Linda Cooper of Stillwater; two brothers, Eugene and Hully Manley, both of Weleetka; two sisters, Sinah Birdcreek of Weleetka and Cilia Manley of Cromwell; 12 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren along with several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were: Tony Dillon; Bobby Harjo; Jerry Sumka; David Green; Junior Lewis; and Smiley Barnett.

Interment was in Weleetka Hillcrest Cemetery.

### ANNIE RANDALL

**HENRYETTA** — Funeral services for Annie Randall were held Nov. 29 at Robert Simons Funeral Home with Anita Phillips officiating.

She died Nov. 26 in Tulsa.

She was born Oct. 20, 1908 in Sand Springs to Callie Fisher and George Island. Randall was a member of Honey Creek United Methodist Church. Randall worked at Tulsa Regional Medical Center for 15 years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roman Randall, in 1944.

Survivors include: two daughters, Dolores Randall of Henryetta and Ramona Randall of Claremore; sister, Isley Harjo of Henryetta; two grandchildren, Rebecca Staten of Claremore and Roman Harjo of Okmulgee; and four great-grandchildren, Elizabeth Staten, Jimmy Staten, Lisa Staten, and Roman Harjo Jr.

Pallbearers were: Jim Staten; Roman Harjo Jr.; Roman Harjo Sr.; Anthony Bear; Wallace Gambler; and Marvin Lowe.

### GEORGE SCOTT

Funeral services for George Lee Scott were held Nov. 21 at Hillabee Baptist Church with Rev. T. J. Fixico officiating.

Wake services were held Nov. 20 at the church.

Scott died Nov. 18 at home.

He was born Nov. 7, 1960 in Oklahoma City to Sallie Scott Wise. He was a resident of Oklahoma City most of his life. He attended Jones Academy and Oklahoma City Public Schools. He worked part-time at the Oklahoma City fairgrounds. Scott attended Street Peoples Ministries in Oklahoma City.

Scott was preceded in death by his: grandparents, Samuel "C" and Mandy Scott; three uncles; and two aunts.

Survivors include: his mother and stepfather, Leo

Wise of the home; his brothers, James Meely of El Reno, Bobby Brown Jr. of Oklahoma City, Elmer Brown of Shawnee, Chris Mitchell of Tulsa, and Anthony Scott of Jay; one sister, Una Michelle Brown of Oklahoma City; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Burial was in the Hanna Cemetery.

### LILLIAN SCOTT

**WEWOKA** — Funeral services for Lillian Scott were held Nov. 30 at Wewoka United Methodist Church with Revs. John Lowe and David Wilde officiating.

Wake services were held Nov. 29 at the church.

Scott died Nov. 27 at Heritage Village Nursing Home in Holdenville.

She was born Oct. 12, 1904 in Yeager, Indian Territory, to James and Lucy Grayson Scott. She was reared in the Yeager and Gum Springs communities and attended Eufaula Boarding School. Scott lived in Yeager most of her life. She relocated to Holdenville in 1984. She was a member of Wewoka UMC.

She was preceded in death by her: parents; three brothers; one sister; and a great-granddaughter, Jonanna Buck.

Survivors are: one daughter, Lucy Mae Sewell of Holdenville; four grandchildren, Frances Harjo, Ronnie Sewell, Connie Buck, and Barbara Withers, all of Holdenville; two great-grandchildren, B. J. Buck and Natasha Harjo; one sister-in-law, Marie Scott of Oklahoma City; and several relatives and friends.

### In Memoriam

Allen Franklyn "Chebon" Whitecloud  
April 10, 1946 — Nov. 29, 1986

## Gratitude

We would like to thank: Indian Fellowship Baptist Church members; Big Cussetah Baptist Church members; Revs. William and Jim Alexander; and friends and family who helped during our time of sorrow. Thank you for your prayers, food, flowers, and just being there.

**Martha Bigpond Family**

We would like to thank everyone for their support in our time of loss.

Special thanks is offered to: Hillabee Baptist Church and members; Revs. T.J. Fixico and J.B. Fish; and Street Peoples Ministries.

We want to thank friends and family for cooking and sending food, cards, flowers and monetary contributions. May God bless you all. *Mvto.*

**George Scott Family**

We would like to express our heartfelt *mvto* for the many prayers, cards, expressions of love and support during our time of sorrow.

May God richly bless each one.

**Allen Whitecloud Family**



Scott



# The Muscogee Nation News

Address Correction Requested

Volume 26, Issue 2

P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

February 1997, 12 Pages

## Muscogee Nation, tribal town governments seek resolution of land claims

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the tribal town governments of Kialegee and Alabama-Quassarte are continuing discussion of the towns' requests to have land presently held by the tribe assigned to them.

Specifically, Alabama-Quassarte has requested the Bureau of Indian Affairs to assign it more than 878 acres of land in Tukvptce District (Hughes County) currently held in trust for the Muscogee Nation by the BIA.

The land, known as the Wetumka Project, was acquired in 1941 and 1942 through a series of conveyances with funds appropriated by the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act. The land was then placed in trust for the tribe.

Kialegee has requested that more than 1,750 acres of trust land in McIntosh District (McIntosh County) be assigned to them.

That acreage is referred to as the Hanna Project and was acquired with funds appropriated from the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act in the late 1930s also. Alabama-Quassarte, Kialegee, and Muscogee Nation all organized by the authority of the act. As such, all three entities are eligible to receive the assigned land.

This is not the first request for a reassignment of the land. In 1991, the Kialegee request was denied by the U.S. Department of Interior Board of Indian Appeals. Though no land was reassigned, that opinion provided the basis for the BIA to claim the U.S. Secretary of Interior has "complete discretion" to deal with the interests of trust land (19 IBIA 296, April 17, 1991).

The tribe has been negotiating with the towns and the BIA, though it appears unlikely a resolution of the issues is expected soon. At the January National Council meeting, approval was given for Principal Chief Perry Beaver to "explore a negotiated resolution of the Hanna and Wetumka project[s] land and mineral issues [and] to take all appropriate actions to defend and preserve" the tribe's interest in the land.

The Council's response was a call to arms after letters from BIA Muscogee Area Office Director Jim Fields were sent to the tribe and the towns. In that letter, Fields claimed authority to decide the assignment. His claim for that authority comes from an Aug. 8 memorandum from deputy commissioner Hilda Manuel who "charged this office with the task of initiating the land transfer review process with regard



photo by Jim Wolfe

TULSA CENTENNIAL BEGINS. Muscogee Nation Principal Chief Perry Beaver (third from left) was a featured speaker at the City of Tulsa's Centennial Celebration. The opening ceremony for the year-long observance was held at the Council Oak. Pictured here with Beaver are from left: Sharon Davis, event organizer; Honorable Susan Savage, Mayor of Tulsa, and Darla Hall, Tulsa city councilor.

## Warning: Oklahoma legislature now in session

OKLAHOMA CITY — The convening of the first session of the 46th Oklahoma Legislature Feb. 3, also marks open season for Indian tribes to renew vigilance in the defense of tribal sovereignty at the state capitol.

Among the legislation assigned to a committee relating to tribal interests are:

- House Bill 1274 — an act relating to state-tribal relations. The bill would allow the governor's representative to negotiate and enter cooperative agreements with the tribe. The bill would allow the governing board of a state political subdivision to enter intergovernmental agreements with tribes also. The bill has been tentatively assigned to the House committee on rules;

- HB 1368 — an act relating to state governments that declares state courts have no jurisdiction "over controversies involving an Indian tribe" unless sovereign immunity is waived. The bill has been assigned to the rules committee also;

- HB 1510 — act relating to revenue and taxation. Specifically, this proposed act relates to the seizure and enforcement of untaxed cigarettes and other tobacco products.

A section of the bill reads: "Any peace officer of the state...is authorized to stop *any vehicle* upon *any road or highway* of this state in order to inspect the bill of lading or *take such action as may be deemed necessary*" to determine if the products are being sold without the necessary tax stamps. (Emphasis added.)

Apparently, the right to protection from unreasonable search and seizure (guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution) is not a matter of consideration for some members of the state legislature — particularly if Indians are involved. The bill has been assigned to the rules committee;

- HB 1809 — an act relating to motor vehicles. This bill would allow the Oklahoma Tax Commission to charge a \$15 annual registration fee for all vehicles registered through a tribe. The fee is for Indians tagged with tribal license plates "for the use of the avenues of public access." Fees would be assessed based on the factory delivery price of an automobile at a rate of 90 percent of that amount also.

Essentially, an Indian wanting to tag an automobile with a tribe will still have to pay a fee to drive on any public access road. The bill has been assigned to

## Letters to the editor

### Editor:

On behalf of the Sapulpa Indian Community, I wish to express their gratitude to the Muscogee (Creek) citizens, Muscogee (Creek) National Council, and Principal Chief Perry Beaver for their support over the years in helping to make the community center and grounds a reality.

A special thanks to the principal chief and Creek District representatives George Tiger, Phyllis Warrington, and Earl Wheeler for attending a special meeting of the Sapulpa Indian Community. This show of self-sacrifice is an example of real commitment.

Ron Fixico, Sapulpa

## State

continued from page 1

the revenue and taxation committee.

In the Senate, bill no. 10 is similar to HB 1274 with at least one significant difference. A section of SB 10 would allow cross-deputization agreements between tribes and political subdivisions of the state to be valid without the approval of the Governor nor the Joint Committee on State-Tribal Relations.

## Legal notice

Printed in *The Muscogee Nation News*, volume 26, issue 2, February 1997.

In the matter of Bobby Lee Harjo, Mickel Harjo, Renee Harjo, minor Creek children, case no. JV-93-37. Notice of hearing to the unknown father of Bobby Lec Harjo, Mickel Harjo, and Renee Harjo.

You are hereby given notice of hearing on the above-styled and numbered case for the purpose of termination of your parental rights in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex at Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 21st day of February, 1997 at 1:30 p.m.

You are hereby informed that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the children remain wards of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration program for continued foster placement or possible pre-adoptive placement.

You are further informed that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at the hearing.

I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of January, 1997.

(s) Patrick E. Moore, district court judge.

## Legal notice

Printed in *The Muscogee Nation News*, volume 26, issue 2, February 1997.

In the matter of D.B. and M.B., minor Creek children, case no. JV-95-50. Notice of hearing to Charles Forebitt, the father of M.B., last known address: R.R. 1 Box 664-1, Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

You are hereby given notice of a hearing on the above-styled and numbered case for the purpose of adjudication and disposition of your parental rights in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex at Okmulgee, Oklahoma on

## Land assignments

continued from page 1

to the Hanna Project lands."

In his letter, Fields wrote he will exercise that authority and consider the transfer review process with the following: existence of statutory authority; need for additional land; intended purpose of the land; amount of trust or restricted land already owned; in the land is in unrestricted fee status; jurisdictional problems and potential conflicts; BIA ability to assume additional responsibilities; and compliance with federal environmental laws.

From the tribe's perspective, Fields wrote he will consider: the current use of the property and how its future use is planned; how future plans for the land use will benefit tribal members; the [affect] on the Nation if the property is assigned; and whether any use rights or improvements would be jeopardized by assignment.

Though the issue is far from resolved, a memorandum to the deputy commissioner of Indian affairs to the BIA Central Office in Washington D.C. from Julie Kelley at the Muskogee area office reads "[Fields] emphasized that he was prepared to make a decision on the requests should the tribes fail to resolve the issue among themselves."

## Public notice

Printed in *The Muscogee Nation News*, volume 26, issue 2, February 1997.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation was awarded and \$84,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's STOP Violence Against Indian Women Program. Funded through the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, grantees must spend at least 25 percent of their funds in the areas of law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services. Last December, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation attended the first of two regional meetings for grantees held in Tulsa and developed an implementation plan on how the Muscogee Nation will address the problems of domestic violence and sexual assault. Priorities discussed at the regional meeting included: domestic violence and sexual assault legislation; development of a coordinated community response; increasing abuser accountability; and community education. For more information on this tribal domestic violence-sexual assault project or community education, contact: Debra Gee, project coordinator, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Justice, (918) 756-8700, ext. 301.

## The Muscogee Nation News

*The Muscogee Nation News* is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions is the third Friday of every month. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar.

*The Muscogee Nation News* is mailed to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

James Wolfe, managing editor  
Stephanie B. Berryhill, senior staff writer  
Summer Barnes, secretary

## Legal Notice

Printed in *The Muscogee Nation News*, volume 26, issue 2, February 1997.

In the matter of S.W., minor Creek child, case no. JV-95-05.

Notice of hearing to Diane Rose Schexnider, the mother of S.W.

You are hereby given notice of a jury trial on the above-styled and numbered case for the purpose of termination of your parental rights in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex at Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 24th day of February, 1997 at 9:00 a.m.

You are hereby informed that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remain ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration program for continued foster placement or possible pre-adoptive placement.

You are further informed that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of January, 1997.

(s) Patrick E. Moore, district court judge

# Council continues supplemental funding, prepares for legal challenges

**OKMULGEE** — The Muscogee (Creek) National Council made several appropriations and confirmed former tribal official **Hugh Ed Johnson** to the tribal health board at its January 25 session.

The 26-member tribal legislature approved more than \$157,900 in special and supplemental appropriations for various reasons, though no comprehensive annual budget for tribal operations and programs has been adopted.

Johnson, the former Muscogee Nation Second Chief, is retired from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Norman resident joins **Bret Williams** and former **Principal Chief Claude Cox** on the board. Two other members — **Susie Deere** of Eufaula and **Lena Marshall** of Okemah — have been asked to relinquish either their positions as board members or their employment. Deere works with the tribal housing authority and Marshall is employed with the tribe's children and family services administration.

Board members receive \$500 a month plus telephone reimbursement expenses. Board members are also required to receive 40 hours of related training annually.

Johnson's term will run through Dec. 30, 1999.

Johnson was approved with a 21-1-1 vote. Voting for his confirmation were (representatives listed in alphabetical order followed by district): **Mike Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Larry Bihle**, Tulsa; **Johnson Buck**, Tukvptce; **Helen Chupeo**, Muskogee; **Irene Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **A.D. Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Barbara Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Anderson Hale**, Okmulgee; **Clyde Johnson**, Okfuskee; **Jesse Kelley**, Tulsa; **Dave Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Harley Little**, Muskogee; **Dwayne Lowe**, Tukvptce; **Abe McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **Thomas McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Tom Piekering**, McIntosh; **Bruce Smith**, Okfuskee; **Phyllis Warrington**, Creek; **Nancy Watson**, Okfuskee; **Earl Wheeler**, Creek; and **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce.

Voting against confirmation was **David Nichols**, Okmulgee. Abstaining was **Ron Cleghorn**, Tulsa.

Speaker **Wilbur Gouge** conducted the meeting and did not vote. Absent were: **Steve Bruner**, Tulsa; and **George Tiger**, Creek.

In other business, the Council:

- granted original allottees a permanent exemption from program restrictions and eligibility guidelines for all tribally-funded services (National Council Act 97-01). The Council gave unanimous approval (23-0);

- approved unanimously (23-0) an appropriation of \$40,000 to the Eufaula Indian Community for the construction of an addition to the community center and bingo hall facility;

- approved unanimously (23-0) an ordinance clarifying the terms for members of the tribal citizenship board;

- approved (21-2) an appropriation of \$35,000 to the school clothing program administered by the children and family services administration. Voting against the supplemental appropriation were: **Little**, Muskogee; and **Chupeco**, Muskogee;

- approved unanimously (23-0) to establish a permanent grant program for tribal ceremonial grounds and Muscogee churches;

- approved unanimously (23-0) to amend NCA 95-

12 and allow funds generated from bingo revenues (\$290,000) to be used as a legal defense fund for anticipated litigation with the Internal Revenue Service;

- approved unanimously (23-0) to amend NCA 96-67 and allow the tribal health systems board to seek, apply, negotiate, execute, and litigate for all contracts and grants available from Indian Health Service;

- approved unanimously (23-0) to amend NCA 96-63 and allow funds appropriated to Buckeye Baptist Church to be carried over into fiscal year 1997;

- approved (18-5) to appropriate \$2,900 to pay penalties assessed by the Internal Revenue Service. The IRS had fined the tribe because the previous administration failed to meet reporting requirements related to the filing of all 1099 forms. Those forms are used to declare personal income paid with no deductions typically applied to income earned through self-employment, contract services, bonuses, or cash awards.

Voting against the measure were: **R. Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Hale**, Okmulgee; **T. McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Niehols**, Okmulgee; and **Wheeler**, Creek;

- approved (22-1) a continuing resolution to allow some tribal programs and services access to another 8.3 percent of their respective fiscal year 1996 funding levels. February is the fifth month of fiscal year 1997. Voting against the bill was **Wheeler**, Creek;

- approved unanimously (23-0) the confirmation of tribal citizen **Eliza Hicks** of Dewar, to another term on the tribal citizenship board.

Hicks was first appointed to the constitutionally-mandated citizenship board by former Principal Chief **Bill Fife**. She joins: **Bryant Jesse** of Weleetka; **Charlotte Anderson** of Beggs; **Jon Tiger** of Eufaula; and **Toske Willits** of Tulsa on the board;

- approved (23-0) a resolution endorsing tribal citizen **Montie Deer** to be placed on the federal judiciary for the state of Kansas. Deer, of Wichita, Kan., is an assistant U.S. attorney for the Kansas District. He presided as a special district judge in tribal court for the resolution and settlement of the Nation's tax claim against **Danny Bruner** also;

- approved unanimously (22-0) a resolution endorsing the tribe's negotiated policy with the state's workers compensation insurance fund. The fund had denied claims by tribal employees using sovereign immunity as a defense against payment of claims. Rep. **Yahola**, Tukvptce, did not vote.

- approved unanimously (23-0) the expenditure of funds for the construction of the child development center and offices at the tribal capitol complex; and

- approved (21-0-2) a bill authorizing the principal chief to resolve the claims and disputes regarding the water and mineral rights on land known as the Hanna and Wetumka projects. The authorization includes the use of tribal funds for litigation.

Abstaining was **I. Cleghorn** of Tulsa, and **R. Cleghorn** of Tulsa.



Inset photo by Earl Wheeler; others by Rita Williams  
Attending one of the official presidential balls on Jan. 20 at the Washington Hilton were Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver and his wife, Mariam.

Miss Mvskoke (Creek) Nation Bobbie Frye represented the tribe at the 53rd Presidential Inaugural: "An American Journey: Building a Bridge to the 21st Century." In addition to attending the Capitol Hill ceremony, she and MMCN chair Rita Williams toured historic sites such as the Arlington National Cemetery, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, and Washington Monument.

## Government briefs

### Tribal jurist to lead association

**ALBUQUERQUE**, N.M. — Muscogee Nation Supreme Court Justice Ed Frye will lead the National American Indian Court Judges Association after being elected president of the group at its annual meeting in Albuquerque last month.

Frye, of Bristow, was appointed to the tribe's highest court by former Principal Chief Bill Fife in 1992. He is also a former Muscogee (Creek) National Council Creek District Representative. Frye was an unsuccessful candidate for Principal Chief in 1991.

His election follows the departure of Ellridge Cochise who founded the court judges association.

### Clarification

The Muscogee Nation Gaming Commissioner is Ronald Eugene "Sonny" Hill and not Eugene Hill as identified in the January edition of *The Muscogee Nation News*.

## Program briefs

### Citizen to represent professional association

WASHINGTON D.C. — Muscogee citizen Lydia Snyder has been appointed to the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. for 1997.

The professional organization is a multi-disciplinary, voluntary, international organization. The purpose of APIC is to influence, support, and improve the quality of health care through the practice and management of infection control and the application of epidemiology in all health settings.

The governmental affairs committee represents the association concerning legislative and regulatory issues before regulations or standards are adopted, including those regarding blood-borne pathogens, medical waste, HIV/AIDS, and infectious diseases. The annual meeting for the group will be March 20 through 23 in Washington.

Snyder has been employed with the Creek Nation Community Hospital since 1991. She is registered nurse with a bachelor of science degree in nursing from the University of Oklahoma. A native of Haskell, Snyder is of the Bear Clan and Tuskegee Tribal Town. She is the daughter of Donald and Lois Colbert Snyder.

### Tribal motor vehicle tags delayed

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tax Commission has delayed the issuance of motor vehicle registrations until Feb. 17. The reason given is the difficulty obtaining the proper reflective materials for the license tags. The tax commission has relocated its offices to the McCullough Building at 110 N. Grand. Questions may be directed to the tax commission at (918) 758-1474 or 758-1470. Muscogee citizen Mike Factor is the tax commissioner.

### Higher education accepting applications

OKMULGEE — Muscogee Nation higher education program is accepting financial assistance application requests for the 1997-98 academic year. Students must:

- possess a Certificate Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) and tribal enrollment card;
- attend or plan to attend a two or four-year accredited college or university studying toward a degree;
- apply for federal financial aid at their college financial aid office and be eligible for Pell grants; and
- submit a written request for application for the undergraduate and tribal funds grant.

Applications will be mailed February through May. Continuing students will be sent renewal applications. Send requests for applications to: Higher Education, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447. For more information, contact Chanenna Davis at (918) 756-8700 exts. 614, 615, 616 or 1-800-482-1979.



Snyder

### Tribe to build child development center

The Muscogee Nation Office of Child Care has awarded grants to support before and after school experience projects and child care programs for Indian children living within tribal jurisdiction. Grants have been awarded to Bristow Public Schools, Broken Arrow Public Schools, Tulsa Public Schools, Tulsa Child Care Service, Inc., and United CAP, Inc.

Inquiries about the program should be directed to Newman Frank at (918) 758-1463 or 1 (800) 205-3705.

Pictured at the grant award signing with Principal Chief Perry Beaver (seated far right) are: Joe Birdcreek, director of the governmental and vocational education program. Standing, from left are: Leo Johnson, coordinator of the state Indian education program; Newman Frank, Muscogee Nation office of child care; Janet Wise, child care program manager; and Edwin Marshall, deputy director of tribal community services.



photo by Gerald Wofford

## Tribal notices

### Festival committee sponsors logo contest

OKMULGEE — The Creek Nation Festival Committee is announcing a theme and art logo contest. The winning theme and logo will be used on the program cover and the festival t-shirt for this year's festival, June 20 through 22.

This year's festival is dedicated to Muscogee youth and the theme and logo should each include this concept. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top four entries as judged by an independent panel.

The following information is provided to ensure all art work will be judged within the same guidelines. Remember, the art work will be used for both t-shirt and program applications and should be practical as well as aesthetic:

- only enrolled Muscogee (Creek) students in grades seven through 12 are eligible for the contest;
- all art work must reflect the theme concept of Muscogee youth;
- work must be 14 inches by 16 inches;
- all art work must be matted. You may use any standard heavy art paper such as poster board, watercolor paper, etc.;
- limit the use of color to six colors for the artwork. Less than six colors are also acceptable; and

the student's name, age, grade, school, home address, telephone number (if available), Social Security number, and a copy of tribal citizenship must be attached to the back of the submitted work.

The deadline for submissions is March 14. Submit all entries to Alexis Crosley or Jerrie On The Hill, Muscogee Nation Higher Education, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

For more information, contact Crosley or On The Hill at (918) 756-8700, exts. 365, and 615.

### Posey play to be presented in Okmulgee

OKMULGEE — "Indian Meadowlark" an original play written by Julie Little Thunder, will be presented at 8 p.m., March 1 at the independent agencies (mound) building auditorium at the tribal capitol complex.

The play dramatizes the life of Alexander Posey, a turn of the century Muscogee poet and journalist.

during the allotment and tribal termination era.

Posey is depicted as an advocate of progress who achieves success as a journalist while his fellow tribal members struggle to understand and cope with the disruptive allotment.

The founder and publisher of the Eufaula *Indian Journal* wrote the widely circulated column "Fus Fixico's Letter" as a vehicle for insight into the traditional Muskogee psyche. Posey's foil, Chitto Harjo, opposed the acceptance of allotment and assimilation. Harjo knew Muskogee life was about to be permanently altered by the allotment process.

The play premiered in Tulsa with Bob Hicks, a Muscogee tribal member, directing. The play was a production of The Tulsa Indian Actors Workshop. Admission to the play is free, though seating is limited. A reception will follow.



submitted photo

Muscogee citizen Lydia Snyder (center) has completed her term as chair of the Southeast Oklahoma Infection Control Employee Health Network. Snyder is a registered nurse with a bachelor's degree in nursing; she is the infection control specialist at Creek Nation Community Hospital. Pictured with Snyder are from left: Ingrid Kimbrough of Holdenville General Hospital and Pat Burrell of Valley View Hospital, Ada.

## Births and birthdays

### Elizabeth Case

SANPETE VALLEY, Utah — Elizabeth Adrianna Case was born Dec. 1 at Sanpete Valley Hospital to Peter F. and Christine A. Case of Manti.

She weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was 19 and one-half inches in length.

Case is the granddaughter of Lee and Joan Case of Manti and Linda Sanchez of Rocky Mountain.

She is the paternal great-granddaughter of Benjamin Perryman and the niece of Wilma Mankiller.

### William Lee Jr.

VADIN, Miss. — William Jason Lee Jr. was born Nov. 22 to William and Vanessa Lee.

The baby weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was 21 inches in length.

His grandparents are Alfred Lewis Lee and Patricia Vance.

Great-grandparents are France H. and Francis T. Lee of Greenwood, Miss.

Lee is of Muscogee-Euchee-Shawnee-French-Irish descent.

### Toddler celebrates second birthday

TULSA — Destiny LouAnne Cloud celebrated her second birthday at Chuck E. Cheese with relatives and friends.

She is the daughter of LaCreshia Mae and Dustin Charles Eugene Cloud of Glenpool.

Maternal grandparents are Pamela Jean Barnett and William Bill Littlehead.

Paternal grandparents are the late Debra Ellen Dilbeck and Benny Dude Cloud.

Maternal and paternal great-grandparents are: Patricia Mae Hand and the late Watie Barnett; and Nellie Jones and the late Daniel Cloud.

### Teen has birthday

HARTSHORNE — James Louis Hedge turned 13 on Feb. 12.

The Jones Academy student is the son of Debbie and William Hedge of Tulsa.

His maternal grandparents are Wesley Butler of Hanna and Nellie Butler of Wetumka.



Case



Lee



Cloud



Hedge

### Toddler places in Tulsa baby pageant

TULSA — Two-year-old Shayla Marie Fogel won a trophy for city supreme princess in the Tulsa Kiwanis Rotary Baby Pageant held Nov. 10.

She is the daughter of Melissa Mitchell and Raymond Fogel of Tulsa.

Maternal grandparents are Randi and Jerry Fogel of Tulsa.

Maternal great-grandparents are: Nancy and Noah Harjo of Tulsa; Elouise and Sam Mitchell of Wetumka; and the late Eliza Gouge Mitchell.



Fogel

### Community briefs

#### Sapulpa to get building, elects officers

SAPULPA — Muscogee Nation and Sapulpa Indian Community officials announced a real estate purchase of 6.1 acres at the community's regular meeting in January.

Construction of the community building will begin Feb. 15 at the site, located on north Brown Street.

Community officers were elected recently: Gene Miller, chair; John Fixico, vice-chair; Flora Davis, secretary; and Jenetta Johnson, treasurer. Maxine Barnett and Emma Cutler were retained on the board of directors.

Mose Cahwee, 1996 vice-chair, will serve as chair of the building and grounds committee. Also serving on the committee will be Wilbur Johnson and Jack Rowe.

### Education briefs

#### Oklahoma JOM Conference scheduled

TULSA — The 13th Annual Oklahoma Johnson O'Malley Conference will be held March 25 through 27 at the Downtown Doubletree Hotel.

The conference theme is "JOM: Academic Journey to the 21st Century;" The Choctaw Nation is this year's host tribe. The annual event is cooperatively sponsored by the Five Tribes each year.

The conference provides many opportunities for: school administrators; parents; JOM staff personnel; tribal program staff; tribal leaders; and educators. Among those opportunities are: attending workshops; exchanging ideas; sharing program information; and receiving the most recent Indian education information and its impact at the local, state, and national level. The preregistration fee is \$125; on-site registration is \$150.

For more information, contact the Muscogee Nation JOM program office at: (918) 756-8700, ext. 608.

#### Player makes team

MERCED, Calif. — Broken Bow tribal member Hiyadeja Jones was named to the Pepsi Central Valley all-tournament team.

She is a freshman basketball player at Merced College.

Jones is the 19-year-old daughter of Billy and Marcella Jones.



Jones

She is the granddaughter of Lucille Bear of Wilson Community and Martha Jones of Broken Bow.

### Student places on principal's honor roll

DRUMRIGHT — Olive Elementary School 4th-grader Marlon James Roberts placed on the principal's honor roll during the first and second nine weeks of school.

Roberts belongs to Nuyaka Tribal Town. He is the son of Lucy Cloud, Bristow. His maternal grandmother is Elizabeth Roberts of Okemah.

### Student participates in program at capitol

OKMULGEE — Okmulgee High School junior Jennifer Taryole will travel to Washington D.C. as a school participant in the Close Up Program.

She is member of a group of students that will take part in a series of government studies seminars at the nation's capitol beginning March 9th. While in Washington, she will have the opportunity to meet with policy-makers, lawmakers, and observe the process of day-to-day governmental operations within the federal bureaucracy.

Her parents are Ken and Darlene Taryole of Okmulgee. She is the paternal granddaughter of Van and Sophia Taryole of Okemah. Maternal grandparents are the late John and Nancy Frank of Okemah.

### Okmulgee girl nominated to who's who

OKMULGEE — Okmulgee High School junior Valarie Taryole was recently nominated for inclusion in the 30th annual edition of Who's Who Among American High School Students.

The major objective of who's who is to recognize the achievements of the nation's outstanding students who have contributed to their schools and communities.

During her high school years, Taryole has maintained honor roll status; outstanding scholarship award in algebra I; served as secretary of the Indian club; participated in intramural volleyball; participated in the Johnson O'Malley Summer Youth Conference; and been Lady Braves Softball team member.

She is the daughter of Ken and Darlene Taryole of Okmulgee. Her paternal grandparents are Van and Sophia Taryole of Okemah. Maternal grandparents are the late John and Nancy Frank of Okemah.

### OSU tribal language offered for credit hours

STILLWATER — The Oklahoma State University College of Arts and Sciences is offering Introduction to Mvskoke (Creek and Seminole) Language and Culture, a two credit hour course, through its arts and sciences extension.

The course is designated arts and sciences 2000: special topics. It begins on Feb. 19 and concludes May 7 and is being offered on Wednesday evenings from 7:15 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. in studio CETS.

In addition, the course will be offered simultaneously by compressed video to Rogers University at Tulsa.

The instructor is Ted Isham of the Mvskoke Language Institute of Oklahoma City. Isham teaches grammatical rules and sentence structure based on adapted teaching guidelines from a linguistic methodology approach. He will teach the course under the supervision of Dr. Pete G. Coser, instructor of record, college of arts and sciences.

For further information or to enroll contact Dr. Kaye White Walker, OSU Arts and Sciences Extension Program Coordinator, at: (405) 744-5647.

# Nancy Harjo Beaver



by Stephanie Berryhill

If there were to be a genre for the Mvskokvlke grandmother, Salt Creek church mother Nancy Harjo Beaver would be among the finest members.

Visually a striking Indian lady, her tall stature and slight frame lend her a uniqueness not often seen. She wears her head scarf in the 19th century-fashion of grandmothers, great-grandmothers, and great-great-grandmothers before her. Her style of dress is modest, simple, homespun. Her carriage exudes both humility and pride.

Alone, she has raised five children successfully. She has supported her church and community tirelessly.

She was born March 3, 1903 to Lillie and Rhoda Scott Harjo, both Tukvptce Tribal Town members.

Her mother's life, as well as the event of her death, precedes that of Nancy's memory.

"I think I was four years old, cause you know..them graves — they used to build little house on it and we used to see that our mother passed away at Jan. 4., 1907."

She and her older brother, Alfred, were sent to live with their father's mother, Lindy Chupco Harjo.

Nancy and her cousin, Melissa Deere, both re-

Holdenville — they getting old."

Like most Indian boarding school policies of the day, the speaking of native languages were forbidden at Euchee also.

"They get you if you talked Creek. They make us stand on the sidewalk. I don't know how many times I stand, hot or cold," she laughs.

When asked what she did after finishing school she replied, "I didn't do nothing I guess — just beat com."

Ten years after the Harjo children had moved in with their grandmother and four uncles, there were two more additions to the home. The passing of Nancy's paternal aunt, Jennie Harjo Long, left two more children without a mother, thus David and Melissa Long [Deere] moved in also.

Once the Harjo family matriarch had converted to Christianity, she did not partake of her tribal town ceremonies. With Tukvptce being only one quarter of a mile south of the Harjo family homeplace, she made sure her grandchildren did not attend the dances either.

"You could hear them singing, and before we went, I just wondered what was going on. They wouldn't even let us go — until she died," Melissa said.

Some of Nancy's uncles still participated at Tukvptce, though it is likely that the influence of her grandmother prevailed.

Even after he had converted to Christianity, Naney's uncle, Ednund, still served as Tukvptce *helisheya* (medicine maker).

"He said he told them [he was] quitting. But he said 'you don't have to say it.' He said 'I'll stop for a while. That's what you supposed to say' — he used to say."

"That's telling the ground that you quitting. You're not supposed to, you know, just quit. Tell them slow-like," Melissa agreed.

"He learned his cousin medicine song; he did. My uncle did, but this last one — he didn't do any good. But my uncle, he don't go out and drink all day. When they going to take medicine, they take it like this evening and all night long. But when he learned this other guy, he didn't do good. He was drinking; sometimes he'd be in jail.

Sometime they don't have no medicine man, so sometime they beg him to come and make medicine. So he'd go over there late evening and make medicine, go home, but he didn't do that too long. He stopped all of it just to go to church.

They said Tukvptce was a real strong tribal town, but everything was supposed to be *wotko* (raccoon) — clan of *wotko* — medicine man be *wotko*, and all other things be *wotko*. But the last time, they didn't do it too good. Just anybody want to be a *mekko* (chief), so they just fall in, quit. There ain't nothing there now."

Lifestyle and routine at the Harjo home, located south of Salt Creek church, was typical of Mvskokvlke of the day. Gardens were made, livestock was raised, the girls pounded corn, and were taught to cook.

Revered for their culinary skills, the women of

member their grandma Harjo as being humble in nature and a woman that did not care to be away from the home.

"She was good; she don't talk about nobody," Nancy said.

"She never did go nowhere, even to town or church," Melissa recalls.

Their grandmother's affinity for the homeplace likely affected and influenced Nancy in such a way that leaving home to attend boarding school proved a traumatic experience. Her attendance at Eufaula Boarding School was brief — four days.

"My uncle [James Scott] sent me to Eufaula, but I sure was crying, so my cousin wrote a letter [to him]...so my uncle came after me."

Her attendance at Euchee Mission proved to be a much more positive experience with her brother and half brother enrolling also.

"Lot of Creeks used to go from [the Holdenville area], but they're all gone. There's a lot of them used to go, lot of Euchee boys used to go. They're all gone looks like, but just a few left — one from Salt Creek, Daniel Harjo; Benny Wilson, he lives in



Pictured, left to right, first row — Lindy Chupco Harjo, her sister, Aggie Marshall, and Kizzie Harjo; second row — Edmond Harjo, Kizzie Narcomey, and Alfred Harjo

Salt Creek have been known to cook some Mvskoke foods that aren't commonly seen on fourth Sunday dinner tables outside of southern Muscogee Nation.

"When roasting ear time, well our grandma she...plant it right by the yard-like, so she went to get roasting ears and she scraped and scraped, and scraped; she used to make a bread and we used to eat it for breakfast. I know I never would get tired of that. It was really good."

Nancy is very knowledgeable about the use of wood for culinary ash. She instructs that red wood or black jack yield the strongest lye, good for preparing *vcehutke* (hominy corn).

"That's a strong ashcs. You have to drip it when you're going to put *safke* in there. Drip it; put little holes in a gallon bucket or you could use a bigger [one]. Put some little thin rag in there and put ashes in there and put warm water in there and let it drip."

If the ashes are too strong it will eat the skin off your fingers, Melissa cautions.

Nancy recommends *avyske* be made with a less stringent wood ash.

She offers instructions for proper preparation of coloring for *cvtahakv* (blue bread).

"...when you was going to make *cvtahakv* you had to make pea hull — black eyed peas or purple hull peas. You have to wash the pea hulls good, put them in the sunshine on the table or something outside. And let it get real dry and clean and when they get real dry burn it in a little pot. And then after it burn down, sift it and put it in something, container or something. When you going to make *cvtahakv* put that in that corn meal; that make it blue."

Nancy said pumpkin was dried similarly. "They used to...clean all inside, cut them up, and they used to put it on the table or something; they used to dry it."

"Tastes better than what you cut up now and cook;

I like it better that way — dry it," Melissa said.

The old-time way of preserving opossum grapes — *pvrkoafke* (grape dumplings) — was told to Nancy by elders.

"Now they could can and they could freeze them. But long time ago they couldn't do that, so they just

put that little stem (bunch of grapes) together and they hang it up, tie it with a rag. They used to hang it up on the wall. When cold spell come, they said they used to take it down, then wash it real good, and they said they boil it. They said they just good as can be."

She began beating corn with a *keco* and *kecvpe* (wooden

Mvskoke mortar and pestle) when she was small.

"You don't have to [beat] it hard though, cause [it] might spill it up. So you have to do it easy."

"When you start, do it easy until the hull starts coming off; after they all off, kind of beat it harder," Melissa adds.

Nancy said she received many a scolding from her grandmother for spilling corn. "She said 'don't beat it so hard! Beat it kind of easy.'"

She said that two women experienced in beating corn can both beat corn together for faster productivity.



This photo of Pauline Billy, Susie Monday, and Nancy ran on the front page of *The Muscogee Nation News*, April 1993.

somewhere. And my cousin, her and I was looking around and a Choctaw woman was beating corn. She was going to make blue bread for Sunday. It was on Saturday and she was beating. So I got hold that stick and I was beating and there's another one standing up against the camphouse and my cousin went over there and she got it and we beat it like that. There's a white man that used to take pictures around and he came along and took our picture. And

Cora (Nancy's daughter) and the other lady's daughter seen us and they got on to us. We said 'well we

didn't tell him to take our pictures!"

Most young to middle age Mvskoke people don't have the stomach for some of the more traditional Mvskoke foods that are rarely prepared today. Nancy said her grandma raised the grandchildren on *catvsvcunke* (blood pudding).

Melissa explained that right after a hog is killed, its throat is cut. A bucket is placed under the throat to catch the blood. Enough salt is added to prevent it from becoming clabbered. Nancy said the hog's large intestine is used as a casing for a cooked blood, rice, and pepper mixture. After the intestine is stuffed and the last end is tied off, it is cooked in boiling water.

"One time we was talking about that and Barbara Long, she heard it," Nancy said. "We said 'girl we used to eat that *catvsvcunke* and everything.' She said 'no wonder ya'lls sickly all the time!'"

"Eating dead blood, no wonder ya'lls sickly," Melissa laughingly repeated.

She was baptized in 1905 at Little Wewoka Methodist Church where her mother and uncle, Rev. James Scott, were members.

"On my mother's side all my kinfolks belong to Wewoka church, but looks like they all gone now. My grandma and them belonged to Salt Creek, so I joined at the Salt Creek and my brother did too."

She joined Salt Creek in 1920 and was accepted by Middie Waddie.

Nancy and "Uetumka" goat roper John Beaver had been childhood acquaintances. They became re-acquainted at church and married in 1927. They resided east of the church and provided for their children by raising a garden, goats, and small livestock. John died in 1938. After his death she sold part of her Lamar-area allotment to purchase lumber and built a house north of Salt Creek where her children grew up.

She joined the United Methodist Church's Ladies Home Society, now known as the United Methodist Women. Nancy is an active member of the Northeast District Senior Methodists organization also. She remembers the days when this organization, formerly called the Retired Minister's organization, only allowed male members. Nevertheless, she supported them on behalf of her brother, the late Rev. Alfred Harjo and has continued to strongly support the organization since its inclusion of women. Nancy is Salt Creek's eldest member and church mother — a position which she has held for over 20 years.



After seeing the photograph of these church mothers in *The Muscogee Nation News*, Muscogee tribal member and Gilcrease artist-in-residence Bobby Martin created "Muscogee Church Mothers #3." 1993. Monotype. Portrayed, left to right, are Pauline, Nancy, and Susie.

**Editor's note:** Nancy Beaver is *Aktayacvlike* (a water creature described as a snake or tiger); she is daughter of *Wotkvlike*. Melissa Deere is *Wotkvlike*.

The name *Sawanokvlike* "Shawnee people" is said to have been given to *Aktayacvlike*, *Wotkvlike* and *Culvlike* (fox) — not because they shared blood ties, but because they believed the Shawnee to have supernatural power. It is said the clans believed by calling themselves *Sawanokvlike* they could attract similar powers. At one time Tukvlike had a very close relationship with the Shawnee. The name *Sawanokvlike* was assumed by the entire town during *Posketa* (Green Corn Ceremony), according to "Social Organization and Social Usages of the Indians of the Creek Confederacy," by John R. Swanton.

Nancy currently lives in Yeager Community.

Her children are: the late John Jr.; Eugene, Yeager; Wanda Postoak, Shawnee; Cora, Holdenville; and Norean Tiger, Holdenville. She has 33 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren. She does not own any part of her original allotment.

Really specialist David Proctor was of considerable assistance in contributing professional and cultural resources to this story.

## Announcements

### Veterans' committee to complete encoding

**OKMULGEE** — The Committee of Osten (veterans' memorial) would like to complete the encoding of Muscogee (Creek) veterans' names. Any veteran who has not submitted a data sheet is asked to submit the following request for information:

- name (female veterans are asked to include maiden name as well as married, if applicable);
- tribal town and clan;
- tour of duty dates;
- branch of service and rating-rank;
- service outside of U.S. (include countries and territories); and
- special medals, awards, and certificates.

Return the information by March 31 to either: Phillip Coon at P.O. Box 2292, Sapulpa, OK 74406; or Jorene Coker at P.O. Box 157, Preston, OK 74456.

### Junior miss competition, powwow scheduled

**OKLAHOMA CITY** — The 1997 Junior Miss Indian Oklahoma Competition and Contest Powwow will begin at 1 p.m., March 1.

The Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women-sponsored event will be held at Kitchens of America Building at the Oklahoma City Fairgrounds. The contest is open to girls ages 13 through 17 that are at least one-quarter degree Indian.

Gourd dancing will begin at 1 p.m. The grand entry will start at 7 p.m. The crowning of JMIO will be at 9 p.m.

Honored guests will be 1996 Miss Indian Oklahoma Julie Deerinwater, Cherokee-Muscogee. The 1996 Junior Miss Indian Oklahoma Natalie Jefferson, Choctaw, will be present also. All former holders of both titles are invited to attend. All tribal princesses are invited also.

The event is sponsored by: Tulsa Creek Indian Community; Native American Center of Excellence Consortium; and Osage Hills Sales Company.

For more information contact: Marcy Renee Wakeford, 1997 JMIO Director, (918) 832-7289; Lorene Main, 1997 powwow director, (405) 721-3756; or Marcia Chibitty, arts and crafts coordinator, (405) 799-1328.

### Tulsa mayor seeks nominees for award

**TULSA** — The City of Tulsa Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women is seeking nominees for its annual Pinnacle Awards.

These awards are given in several categories to women in Tulsa that have contributed their talents in the fields of: education; health; family; corporate-business; arts-humanities; community-civic service; and public advocacy. The 1997 Tulsa Spirit Award recognizes one woman who has overcome extraordinary circumstances to reach her goals and benefited the community-at-large also. The deadline for nominations is Feb. 17.

The awards will be given at the 10th Annual Women's History Month Dinner and Pinnacle Awards in March — national Women's History Month also.

For a nomination form or more information, contact cochairs: Susan Mason, 627-2982; or Eulene Yeargain, 446-0529.

## Muskogee towns, churches, communities hold meeting regarding repatriation act

**OKEMAH** — Preliminary Muskogee confederated tribal towns-ceremonial grounds, churches, and community meetings in preparation for the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation (NAGPRA) Act Review Committee meeting have been scheduled.

The preliminary meetings will begin at 10 a.m., Feb. 22 and 10 a.m., March 15 at the Tribal Towns Center, 118 W. Elm St., to prepare for the NAGPRA meeting that will discuss implementation of the statute in the state of Oklahoma. The intention of the preliminary meetings is to unite tribal town-ceremonial ground, church, and community leaders and members to address NAGPRA issues of critical importance to the restoration of tribal towns' communal property rights — as a majority of these peoples are direct descendants of the tribal towns.

In November 1990 NAGPRA (P.L. 101-601) became law requiring the preparation of collections inventories and the notification of tribal groups regarding federal museum holdings that may be subject to repatriation.

The act recognizes the human rights of American Indian peoples, offers equal protection for the religious rights of American Indian peoples, and will lessen the negative impact of the loss of sacred objects sustained in the past. In effect, the act is a restoration of the property rights of American Indian peoples — in terms of communal objects — and ends a pattern of one-way transfers of objects from American Indians to non-Indian institutions. There will be a systematic review of what sacred objects are, what makes these objects sacred, and how they should be handled.

The NAGPRA Review Committee will deal with

the application of the statute in Oklahoma, although it is detrimental for tribal peoples under the Muskogee confederacy to educate this committee that the interests of the confederated Muskogee involve predominantly the southeastern region of the U.S. — as Muskogee peoples have been in Oklahoma [Indian Territory] only since the 1820s and 30s.

It is possible that the property of non-federally recognized groups, such as each individual tribal town-ceremonial ground, could be classified as "culturally unidentifiable." A sacred object or set of ancestral remains may be identified as "Creek" while lacking a more precise identification linking them with one or several tribal towns by name. The "Creek" groups cropping up in the southeastern U.S. region may try to compete for interest of Muskogee peoples, but can be disclaimed by requiring them to state their specific tribal town affiliation — a technicality which they have never had to prove. Also, over 200 years ago there was no Seminole tribe; to protect Muskogee interest, this must be taken into consideration.

The NAGPRA Review Committee meetings will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., March 25 through 27 at the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education at The University of Oklahoma in Norman.

Tune in to the KJRH Channel 2 program, "Insight," at 9 a.m., Sunday, March 2 for a discussion of NAGPRA as it pertains to the tribal towns.

The Smithsonian Institution is exempt from the law specifically.

For more information, contact Corky Allen, Kialegee Etvlwv Repatriation Officer, at: (405) 452-3262.

## Marketplace

### Acclaimed artist merchandising t-shirts

**HANNA** — Muscogee citizen Jackson Narcomey has begun the promotion and sale of t-shirts with silk screened applications of his award-winning art.

Narcomey of Hanna, is selling the 50 percent cotton and 50 percent polyester t-shirts with eight different designs including his work that received the Traditional Indian Heritage



Narcomey with t-shirt

Award from the Five Tribes Museum in Muskogee. All the designs are taken from Narcomey's original work. The crew neck shirts are available in red, white,

black, and blue and in large and extra-large sizes.

The shirts are \$10 each with a \$3 shipping and handling charge added. Narcomey has copyrighted his design and is the exclusive distributor of his t-shirts. Inquiries and orders can be addressed to Narcomey at Box 152, Hanna, OK, 74845.

### Citizen begins distributorship

**OKMULGEE** — Muscogee citizen A.D. Ellis and his wife, Gail, have opened a distributorship, Herbs and More at Sixth and Mission streets. The couple are distributor's for Nature's Sunshine health and dietary supplements, including weight loss patches. The business number is (918) 756-7826. Ellis is also an Okmulgee District representative to the Muscogee (Creek) National Council.

### Credit unions receive injunction relief

**WASHINGTON D.C.** — The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has suspended partially an injunction against federal credit unions restricting membership. The relief allows federal credit unions to sign up new members from all existing groups. Western Sun Federal Credit Union of Okmulgee is recruiting Muscogee Nation citizens to join. For more information, contact Gail Ellis at (918) 756-2383.

## Obituaries

### SAMPSON BUTCHER

OKEMAH — Funeral services for Sampson Butcher were held Jan. 6 at Prairie Springs Baptist Church with Rev. Boots Fixico officiating.

Wake services were held Jan. 5 at the church. He died Jan. 2 at Creek Nation Community Hospital. He was born March 1, 1912 to Norfer and Donna Bear Butcher, north of Okemah.

Butcher was *Nokosvlike* and an active member of Okfuskee Ceremonial Ground. As he had been Okfuskee *helishopoya*, most of his time was centered around ceremonial ground activities.

Butcher was the paternal great-grandson of *Hoktuceafvnoke* — a Nuyaka Tribal Town girl whose parents died while the family was enroute from Georgia during forced federal government removal to Indian Territory.

He had resided in the Okemah area all of his life. Butcher was the husband of Mary Jane Yargee. He was a farmer most of his life and member of Prairie Springs Baptist Church.

Preceding him in death were: his parents; his wife; two sons, Sampson Butcher Jr. and Robert Lee Butcher Sr.

Survivors include: one daughter, Leona Sanders of Cromwell; one son, Jay McGirt of Tulsa; 13 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and other relatives and friends.

Interment was in the family cemetery.

### HELYN LEGGAT

LOMA LINDA, Calif. — Helyn Gatlin Leggat, a new born Muscogee (Creek) enrollee, died Jan. 18 at Loma Linda Medical Center.

She was born Jan. 20, 1905 in Hanna, Indian Territory. She had lived on the Monterey Peninsula for many years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Major George Leggat.

Survivors include: her sister, Wilma Kelly of Marina, Calif.; a half-sister, Erla Cox of Tyler, Texas; a half-brother, Cecil Gatlin of Claremore; two daughters, Betty Devlin of Yuma, Ariz. and Billye Girotti of Monterey; four grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

At her request, no funeral services were held. The family suggests that memorials and contributions be made to: Murrow Indian Children's Home, 2540 Murrow Road, Muskogee, OK 74403.

### Gratitude

We would like to thank everyone for their support and kind expressions of love and sympathy during the illness and death of our loved one.

A special thank you is extended to: Alec Lowe; Malcolm Tiger; Chuck McHenry; Bunny Hill; Tommy Mugg; Broken Arrow United Methodist Church; and Tulsa Creek Indian Community.

We appreciate your kindness and contributions more than words can say.

Andrew Lowe Family

## Religion briefs

### Salt Creek Methodist holds onion dinner

SALT CREEK — Salt Creek United Methodist Church is holding its annual wild onion dinner and a craft sale March 8. The dinner will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Holdenville Indian Community Center, 416 E. Poplar. The dinner will cost \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

### Springfield Methodist sets revival dates

OKEMAH — Springfield United Methodist Church has scheduled a revival to be held March 20 through 23. Specific times and preachers will be announced in the March issue of *The MNN*.

### Newtown schedules revival services

OKMULGEE — Newtown United Methodist Church has scheduled revival services on March 23 through 26 at 7 nightly.

The following churches will be holding devotions

and speakers: March 23, Conechart, Thomas Roughface; March 24, Pickett Chapel, Jerry Baker; March 25, Fife Memorial, Paul Samuels; and March 26, Choska, Jackie Davis.

Good Friday services will be held at 7 p.m., March 28. For more information, call pastor Dave Long Jr. at: (918) 756-5222.

### Montesoma Baptist seeks pastor

HAYDONVILLE — Montesoma Baptist Church is seeking a spirit-led pastor. The Okfuskee County church is one and one-half miles north of Haydonville off state highway 56. The church meets every Sunday beginning with Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. Worship services follow 11. The church is a member of the Muscogee-Seminole-Wichita Indian Baptist Association of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

Inquiries are welcome. For more information, contact church deacon Sonny Hart at: Rt. 2, Box 251-5, Stroud, OK 74079 or call: (918) 968-4203.

## Muskoke to be featured artist at Tulsa Indian Art Festival

TULSA — Seminole-Muskoke textile artist and potter Jay McGirt is one of two artists to be featured at the 11th Annual Tulsa Indian Art Festival Feb. 22 and 23.

The festival will include hands-on activities, cultural demonstrations, a Spiro Mounds exhibit, and intertribal powwow.

The festival will be held at the Exposition Center, upper level. General admission is \$3 per person.

A preview and opening reception will begin at 5 p.m., Feb. 21. The cost is \$30 per person. Education day will be held on Feb. 21 also. Student group reservations may be made at \$1 per student.

The festival will open at 10:30 a.m., Feb. 22 and 23.

This year the festival will showcase American Indian Art of the southeastern woodlands. Cherokee potter Jane Osti will be featured also. R.W. Geoinety is the poster artist. Moselyne Larkin will serve as the honorary chairperson.

For the past 15 years McGirt has been researching and creating traditional Muskoke-Seminole men's clothing from the 18th and 19th century period of dress. During the last two years he has been creating women's clothing from this period also.

McGirt has completed three internships at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natu-

ral History. His first two internships entailed the study of men and women's southeastern dress. His third internship consisted of the study of southeastern beadwork. His work is among the collections of the Eiteljorg Museum, Indianapolis, Ind. and the



Pictured is a pre-removal sash and bandolier bag made from wool stroudling. McGirt adorns these textiles with original designs based on the traditional Muskokvlike applique style of beadwork sewn directly on the fabric.

Smithsonian. McGirt belongs to the Wind Clan and Tukvptce Tribal Town and resides in Tulsa.

The festival is a project of the National Indian Monument Institute. The TIAF is an all-volunteer network sponsoring scholarships in visual and performing arts to qualified American Indian students.

To make reservations for the reception, call: (918) 838-3875. For more information write: Tulsa Indian Art Festival, P.O. Box 52694, Tulsa, OK 74152-0694.

# Chief Beaver encourages unity in labor and spirit in address

**Editor's note:** The following is an edited version of Muscogee Nation Principal Chief Perry Beaver's State of the Nation address. The tribal constitution at Article 5, section 4, requires the chief to deliver the speech every year. Copies of the speech in its entirety are available on videocassette from the communications department. For more information, contact Gerald Wofford at (918) 756-8700, or 1 (800) 482-1979, ext. 300.

This [is] the second State of the Nation address that I have been privileged to deliver to you. This New Year marks the beginning of the second year of my administration and it has been a busy year — one that has been filled with considerable challenges, but also a year that has been marked with progress and rewards.

This past year has been a period of transition for my administration. It is a year of meeting many challenges as we have prepared to carry forth the goals I have set for this administration. The time I have been in office has been a time of assessing our current strengths and identifying the areas that may possibly need change. We are still in this process but positive changes are already being implemented and we are seeing good results.

As the transition period comes to an end, I look forward to moving ahead to accomplish the goals I have for the Nation.

One of my main priorities is to implement better ways of serving the citizens that this tribal government is responsible for — in the areas of jobs, better health care, and educational opportunities.

At this time I would like to commend the tribal employees for their cooperation during this transition time and say that I am expecting even more of you during this next year in the way of demonstrating a greater degree of cooperation and enthusiasm for your jobs in serving the needs of our citizens; service to our citizens is our mission. It is the reason we are all here. We can never lose sight of that goal.

I am glad to report to you that the state of the Muscogee Nation is strong in spite of the difficult challenge we have had in maintaining operations of our federally-funded programs due to budget cuts of Indian programs in Washington.

This has been an extremely difficult year for all Indian tribes [because of] the 104th Congress — and from all indications, 1997 will also be a year of challenge for Indian tribes as we continue the fight for adequate funding for our Indian programs and as we assert our sovereign rights and move to stop any attempts from Congress to interfere with our rights to self-government and to exercise our right [to have a] government-to-government relationship with the federal government.

We must make ourselves visible and our voices heard in the Nation's capital to let them know that we will not allow their actions to compromise our rights as Indian nations.

Again, as I spoke to you last year, I believe it is the responsibility of the tribal leaders here today to work in cooperation to aggressively maintain our sovereignty against, not only threats from the Congressional floor, but also those potential threats closer to home. The major problems and issues that we may face, should not be those that divide [our government] or as a tribe, rather we must unite in teamwork to resist the threats to our sovereignty from

outside forces.

In the last State of the Nation [address] I appealed to everyone to work together. I am pleased to say that for the most part, this challenge has been met. However, we can still improve in many areas.

We can have a better Nation, but it can only be done as we are willing to work together — the branches of government, the employees, and the citizens — it takes all of us.

And we and our children will all benefit from what we do today. It can be done, but only through working hard and working together. Teamwork and unity; that's what will help us advance as a strong tribal nation.

One of the major accomplishments of my administration to date is the reorganization of the executive branch. The executive branch had operated under a reorganized plan enacted in 1988. It was outdated and ineffective and change was needed. I presented my reorganization plan for the executive branch to streamline and bring a greater degree of efficiency to the executive branch. That plan was [approved with the passage] of NCA 96-18, last February.

This has been a great accomplishment and we have continued to see progress in the administration as a result of this plan which has streamlined our branch for greater efficiency.

Also, in the area of streamlining and upgrading our executive branch, we revised and updated the personnel policies and procedures. They were approved by the National Council in September. This was a major accomplishment as [no personnel policy] had ever been approved since the beginning of the [modern] tribal government.

I will remind you of the priorities I set when I campaigned to be your principal chief: services to the people; concern for families and elders; education; economic development; and health care improvement; among other special initiatives. Relating to these priority areas, approximately 117 bills were introduced into the National Council for action, with 94 being enacted. I signed 92 of these into law. There were 17 tribal resolutions enacted by the Council and I signed all of these. The National Council and the executive branch have worked toward a common goal, through legislation, to promote the welfare of our citizens.

In summary of these general areas, I will now present the accomplishments of the major programs and services of the tribal government for the 1996 calendar year:

- social and human services. Healthy family values are a priority for this administration — for I believe the strength of our Nation depends on strong Creek families;

- children and family services. This department has and continues to work hard to provide comprehensive services to children and families. Their work is invaluable on behalf of our families.

Speaking further of families; a long awaited dream was realized for our tribal employees and their families with the opening of our new Muscogee (Creek) Nation Child Development Center in November. This innovative learning center, designed for infants to 12-year-old children, is located at the [tribal capitol] complex. The center has a current enrollment of 15 children and has one supervisor, three teachers, and six teacher's aides. We are truly

proud of this accomplishment.

Plans are also underway for a child care center to be built at Holdenville. Negotiations are completed and a bill is being prepared for approval by the National Council to purchase the property at Holdenville for the center.

On the subject of the family — I again emphasize my concern for the elders of the tribe. The foundation of our families are [these] elders and they have left us a wonderful legacy to uphold. In my State of the Nation address last year, I [announced my intent] to dedicate the 1996 Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo to the original allottees.

I am pleased to say that [during the] Festival [we] did recognize our original allottees and tribal elders for their invaluable contribution to the founding of this Nation. A reception was given in their honor as well as an East vs. West old-timers' softball game held. The 22nd Annual Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo was attended by over 8,800 visitors and participants.

A wonderful time of fellowship and fun was enjoyed by everyone who attended. The Festival committee also reported the 1996 Festival was self-supporting through fund raising activities.

In other events, we were the lead host tribe for the 1996 National Congress of American Indians Midyear Conference held in Tulsa. Many issues relating to our sovereignty were discussed among tribal leaders attending from all over the United States as well as international guests.

It was a very informative and successful conference.

Of benefit also to our elders, I signed into law this past year legislation which authorized a feasibility study on a tribal nursing home. I am pleased to say that we have completed the feasibility study and have forwarded it to the National Council for action.

Our social services department continues to meet the needs of the people. For calendar year 1996, the program has serviced 515 clients at the social services field sites and has provided services to 5,157 clients [through the social services department] at the complex — for a total of 5,672 clients [served]. Also, we are proud of the fact that our social services dept. has made new innovations with the utility industry.

For example [the tribe is] the first tribe to enter negotiations with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission for reduced rates for low income American [Indian] families who reside within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Oklahoma Natural Gas and Oklahoma Gas and Electric now provide reduced rates for the households that social services certifies to be low-income.

Our food distribution program serves an average of 3,000 individuals a month with commodities delivered to eight community distribution sites twice a month and to four sites once a month.

The environmental services administration (ESA) has provided home rehabilitation services through its various programs and I am pleased to announce that this past year, through the hard work of staff, we received a \$1 million dollar grant from [the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development] for the Indian home [improvement] project.

In a breakdown of services, the Bureau of Indian Affairs Home Improvement program has completed 10 [home rehabilitation projects]; the Indian home program has funded 19 projects. With a second Indian

## Speech

continued from page 10

home grant funded through HUD, six [home rehabilitations] have been completed in 1996. This represents a total of 35 houses rehabilitated through these federal grants.

Through the tribal emergency home repair, a total of 389 projects were completed for the calendar year 1996.

- economic development. In my administration goals, we continue to explore new economic development opportunities. The tribe must become self-sufficient if we are ever to fully exercise our sovereignty and meet the needs of our people — particularly in light of federal budget cuts of the last year and [those] which we anticipate this year.

Currently, we are moving ahead with the construction phase of the truck plaza here in Okmulgee and we anticipate an opening date during the first week in March. Our tribal tax commission, under the authority of NCA 95-81, has implemented a tribal motor vehicle registration program and this will be ready to go in February.

- Currently, the health administration, under the direction of the [tribal] health systems board, oversees the Nation's hospital at Okemah, and dental and medical clinics throughout the Nation's boundaries. Other services are offered through the community health representatives program and the elderly nutrition program which provides hot, nutritious meals to the elderly at eight sites throughout the Nation.

- education. This is, of course, an area that is not only a priority in my administration, but is among the top priorities of each citizen.

The higher education scholarship program funded 540 students for the fall 1996 semester. The adult education program awarded 21 general equivalency certificates for the 1996 calendar year. The Eufaula Dormitory has provided residential care for 266 students this past calendar year. The Johnson-O'Malley program has conducted a student count of approximately 11,000 eligible students in 47 public schools.

The Head Start program enrollment for the 1996 calendar year was a total of 207 students throughout the four Head Start centers of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Additionally, the Creek Nation Head Start served as interim sponsor for a non-Indian Head Start Program in Muskogee comprised of five Head Start centers with a combined total enrollment of 315 for the Muskogee sites.

The adult vocational training program has provided services to 34 participants. The Job Training partnership act program has provided eligible participants with the following services for the 1996 calendar year:

- 383 tribal grants;
- 94 adult vocational training grants;
- 321 participants were serviced through JTPA; and



- 211 participants were provided jobs through the summer youth employment program.

- Moving on, efforts on behalf of cultural preservation have been ongoing through our office of culture and historic preservation which among other activities, has provided language and culture classes to Creek people. Language and culture classes are also provided at many of the community centers of the Nation.

- Our veteran's war memorial project is also moving ahead with much interest generated for this project. The architect's plans have been finalized and funding is currently being secured for construction. This memorial will be a tribute and a way of honoring our Creek soldiers who gave their all for us in the defense of our Country.

- Again, in the area of services to the people, there were 12 editions of *The Muscogee Nation News* sent to tribal households this past calendar year, with 8,000 issues sent out monthly by the communications department.

- Other services to the people include the Lighthorse administration, which provides tribal law enforcement to protect life and property and maintain law and order within our boundaries.

- This year also marked the signing of an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service to establish a tribal fire fighting team. We are very proud of this agreement with this outside agency.

- Other tribally-operated programs, many of which are support programs such as personnel, or other commissions and boards (such as the election board) are listed in the quarterly reports if you would like more specific information for their activity this quarter.

- In the area of other tribal initiatives, I am pleased to report that in April, we began a project which is still ongoing to upgrade the computing, accounting, and networking systems of the tribe to better serve our citizens. Once this new [information] system technological advance is available at the complex, we want to bring our communities on-line with the system — again in an effort to upgrade our present system of delivery of services to our citizens.

Since the past year has been [a national] election year, our focus has been on getting our people registered to vote in the state and national elections. Through the different departments, election board, and citizen volunteers, we registered many of our people and other Indians to vote in the elections.

In this crucial time of attack upon our tribal sovereignty from many outside forces the Indian voice must be heard. We need our Indian people to be educated on the issues affecting them at the federal and state levels and then to make their voices heard through their vote.

Also being an election year, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, through the Intertribal Council of the Five Tribes actively supported candidates at the state and national level who were informed and supportive of Indian issues.

We attended the Chicago Democratic National Convention where several tribal leaders from Oklahoma were scheduled to speak on issues affecting all Indian Nations. This was a unique opportunity for our voice to be heard at the highest levels of government and before the American public. It was truly an historic event:

An overall profile of the tribal government includes a 1997 annual budget comprised of federal funds—including self-governance and HUD—in the amount of \$32,575,235 and tribal funds in the amount

of \$4,685,431.

We have a tribal enrollment at 40,862 citizens, with the citizenship board enrolling new citizens every day.

The tribal government employees a skilled work force of 499 employees with approximately 300 employed at the three tribal bingo facilities and another 323 at the health administration.

We have tribal land holdings of 5,649.5 acres of trust land and 326 acres of unallotted lands, and during this past year, 39.95 acres have been acquired by the tribe [and awaits] trust status.

For our tribal programs, we have 67 facilities totaling 463,589 square feet of office and building space which all totals to an estimated dollar value of \$7,821,300.

We have 20 chartered Creek communities which in themselves manage numerous programs and projects such as bingo, smokeshops, and nutrition centers. Groundbreakings took place this last year for the Tulsa Creek Indian Community new site location as well as at Weleetka and Twin Hills. Land for the Sapulpa community center has been secured with construction to start within 60 days.

In surveying our progress over this past year, I have been disappointed that we had to make the decision to temporarily halt the operations of the tribal manufacturing company [because of a] lack of feasibility of continuing the operation because it was requiring more of an investment than could be supported [with its] projected revenues. However, we are pursuing more profitable projects for the manufacturing company.

Also, the farm authority board was dissolved this past year, again due to no adequate return on our investments. We are exploring alternatives in this area.

My greatest disappointment has been in the failure of the motor fuels legislation to pass the National Council.

Again, leaders, let me emphasize that we must concentrate on the task at hand — maintaining a powerful and productive Creek Nation for the benefit of its people. I am committed to this goal and I know that our leaders are [committed] as well. The interests of our people must come first.

I am reminding elected leaders that we are accountable to the people who have demonstrated their confidence in us through their vote.

I want to again emphasize that we must work in harmony to achieve our goals. We will never accomplish any of the greater goals of the Nation alone. And, we must succeed. For these reasons, let us strive to stay focused on the spirit of cooperation and what we can accomplish together for an even greater Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

I thank all of you for your support and prayers during this past year, and I thank you for your dedication in seeing the Muscogee (Creek) Nation start 1997 with hope and a vision for change and progress.

We will be met by many difficult challenges but by laying aside our differences, and focusing on the common goal of a strong Creek Nation and making a better future for our children, we can succeed.

We are a strong people. Our history reflects that we have endured many hardships and times of despair, but we have always persevered, but only as everyone stood together in unity. This is the challenge and the hope that I leave with you today.

## Muscogee (Creek) Nation quarterly financial statement

Quarter ending Sept. 30, 1996

Prepared by the Office of the Controller

<u>PROGRAM NAME</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ENCUMBERED</u>	<u>EXPENDED</u>	<u>UNENCUMBERED</u>	<u>Treasury report narrative</u>
ICUSA	24,052.23	691,436.15	0.00	534,379.85	157,056.30	In accordance with
MCN LEGAL DEFENSE FUND	8,098.92	132,112.46	0.00	44,775.42	87,337.04	National Council Act 88-
TREASURY	418,650.00	388,000.00	0.00	363,646.80	24,353.20	70, section 112, as
LITIGATION & LOBBYING	35,243.08	712,958.52	0.00	700,125.36	12,833.16	amended by NCA 89-37,
GENERAL TAXES & LICENSES	1,277,693.37	*****	0.00	1,256,281.38	189,150.32	the following information
ADMINISTRATION/INDIRECT	2,266,619.27	*****	0.00	1,808,643.71	317,064.29	for the period ending
CONSUMER LOANS	24,002.02	0.00	0.00	(50,625.81)	50,625.81	Sept. 30, 1996 discloses
CREEK NATION BINGO	2,110,163.37	*****	0.00	2,083,103.35	329,614.30	the receipts, budget,
CN PERMANENT FUND	1,928,017.30	320,925.39	0.00	186,637.54	134,287.85	encumbrances, expen-
TOM JOHNSON PERM FUND	68,883.41	0.00	0.00	2,466.99	(2,466.99)	ditures, and
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	1,111.13	1,002.00	0.00	0.00	1,002.00	unencumbrances for all
TRIBAL BUDGET	1,044,599.45	559,168.00	0.00	517,426.12	41,741.88	funds under the control
TAX COMMISSION	159,956.44	164,981.00	0.00	140,682.34	24,298.66	0.00 of the Muscogee (Creek)
DIVISION OF HUMAN DEV.	397,662.03	398,576.00	0.00	397,662.03	913.97	Nation.
INDIAN HOME GRANT	60,300.84	726,159.00	0.00	60,300.84	665,858.16	The receipts are
CHILD CARE DBG '92	391,371.11	391,997.72	0.00	391,371.11	626.61	dollar amounts received
TITLE IVB CHILDREN SERV	(4,556.27)	0.00	0.00	0.00	399,151.06	for Fiscal Year 1996.
DIVISION, C & F SERVICES	1,310,290.93	*****	0.00	1,310,290.93	8,233.49	The figures include but
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENT.	40,886.51	49,120.00	0.00	40,886.51	7,425.15	are not limited to federal
L.I.H.E.A.P. '96	68,759.85	76,185.00	0.00	68,759.85	1,433,046.58	54,635.00
95 CCDBG	153,166.42	*****	0.00	153,166.42	1,128,146.51	1,007.89
HEADSTART PROJECT II	87,653.49	*****	0.00	87,653.49	24,990.09	24,990.09
FAMILY PRESERVATION	0.00	148,896.00	0.00	0.00	6,490.74	6,490.74
TITLE IV-B CHILD WELFARE	164,698.89	224,532.00	0.00	164,698.89	1,498.28	1,498.28
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENT	0.00	54,635.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
TRIBAL AFFAIRS	20,141.46	10,491.89	0.00	9,484.00	16,801.59	16,801.59
DIVISION OF HUMAN DEVEL.	26,326.91	51,317.00	0.00	26,326.91	164.46	generated by the tribe.
FDP FY93	296,800.26	303,291.00	0.00	296,800.26	36,883.87	The total dollars spent
96 NUTRITION EDUCATION	29,625.72	31,124.00	0.00	29,625.72	0.00	represent the amount
ORAL & LITERACY	0.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	5,118.14	spent to date for the four
ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGAT	5,614.41	22,416.00	0.00	5,614.41	1.50	quarters ending Sept. 30.
HEADSTART USDA REIMBURSE	72,189.25	109,073.12	0.00	72,189.25	336,835.49	The budget figure
EUF. DORM-ACTIVITY FUND	49,980.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	96,310.93	represents the amounts
ELECTION BOARD	1,408.89	18,750.00	0.00	13,631.86	433,808.15	approved as of Sept. 30,
CITIZENSHIP BOARD	3,076.81	1,200.00	0.00	1,198.50	1,299.02	5,449.56
REVOLVING FUND	10,553.16	6,000.00	0.00	5,835.54	25,640.00	in the annual comprehen-
SELF-GOVERNANCE COMPACT	4,615,695.72	*****	0.00	4,615,695.72	1,315.00	1,315.00
D. OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	11,229.66	107,540.59	0.00	11,229.66	391.79	391.79
EUFAULA DORMITORY	1,067,212.19	*****	0.00	1,067,212.19	246,927.81	figures derived from
TRIBAL SELF GOVERNANCE	135.90	2,200.00	0.00	900.98	0.00	0.00
BIA-TRANS. IMPROV. PROG.	42,769.72	48,219.28	0.00	42,769.72	46,529.00	outstanding purchase
JOM PROGRAM	158,534.06	184,174.06	0.00	158,534.06	835,750.00	orders at the end of the
SG NEGOTIATION GRANT	82.19	1,315.00	0.00	0.00	46,144.80	quarter. Expended
COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING	0.00	49,612.85	0.00	49,221.06	503,909.40	amounts state the total
DIVISION OF T. AFFAIRS	403,072.19	650,000.00	0.00	403,072.19	199,737.43	spent for each depart-
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD	13,256.00	13,256.00	0.00	13,256.00	73,192.40	ment, within that fund.
JOHNSON O'MALLEY	781,296.78	981,089.00	0.00	781,296.78	57,137.74	The unencumbered
EQUIPMENT POOL/ROADS P.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	796,258.97	figures reflect the net
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVMEN	0.00	46,529.00	0.00	0.00	6,789.08	available for each
KELLEYVILLE BRIDGE	19,250.00	855,000.00	0.00	19,250.00	168,946.88	department at the end of
EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING	472.94	46,617.74	0.00	472.94	22,761.22	Sept. 30. Any questions
EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING	131,010.60	634,920.00	0.00	131,010.60	119,361.95	regarding this report may
HEADSTART - FY 1996	751,101.55	950,762.00	(76.98)	751,101.55	(24,889.73)	be directed to the office
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	1,807.60	75,000.00	0.00	1,807.60	(647.00)	of the controller at (918)
CHILDREN'S JUSTICE PROG.	2,862.26	60,000.00	0.00	2,862.26	3,200.00	756-8700, ext. 250.
COMMUNITY CENTERS PROJ.	391,653.02	*****	0.00	391,653.02	1,489,171.44	
COMMUNITY SERV. BLDG.	366,131.55	372,920.63	0.00	366,131.55	207,116.67	
TRAVEL PLAZA ENTERPRISE	511,411.10	170,000.00	0.00	1,053.12	0.00	
TRAVEL PLAZA	0.00	*****	0.00	163,828.56	207,116.67	
TRIBAL AGRIC PROGRAM	39,404.20	39,309.22	0.00	16,548.00	0.00	
LIGHTHORSE SERVICES	378,030.06	544,681.00	0.00	425,319.05	207,116.67	
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY	8,970.00	5,250.00	0.00	30,139.73	0.00	
COMMUNICATION REVNG FND	1,444.36	2,045.00	0.00	2,692.00	0.00	
MCN FLAGS & ETC.	3,225.56	3,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
ROADS EQUIP. POOL	296,005.54	270,000.00	0.00	81,316.71	188,683.29	
CN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	27,367.64	0.00	0.00	5,124.00	(5,124.00)	
INVESTMENT TRUST	753,694.95	0.00	0.00	1,036,962.77	(1,036,962.77)	
C.N. TAXES & FRINGE	0.00	0.00	0.00	(207,116.67)	0.00	
NONEXPENDABLE TRUST	67.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TRIBAL-REAL PROP & FACIL	791,874.32	837,421.00	0.00	798,613.70	38,807.30	
TRIBAL-PROPERTY & SUPPLY	110,984.60	197,613.00	0.00	175,276.09	22,336.91	
CN.FOUN.SCHOLARSHIP FUND	4,723.76	0.00	0.00	1,489.77	(1,489.77)	
FESTIVAL COMMITTEE	59,777.15	75,085.57	0.00	72,095.14	2,990.43	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>24,297,596.34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(76.98)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,476,601.63</b>	



# The Muscogee Nation News

Volume 26, Issue 3

P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

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## Tribal hospital surgeon pleads not guilty to rape, sodomy charges

OKEMAH — The Creek Nation Community Hospital's chief surgeon Richard Hudson entered pleas of not guilty to three counts of first degree rape, second degree rape, and oral sodomy at his Feb. 26 arraignment in Okfuskee County District Court.

Hudson, 50, was arrested Feb. 21 by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation whose assistance was requested by the Okemah Police Department. The OSBI was investigating sexual assault complaints against Hudson by a Norman woman.

Hudson will be tried in district court as the tribe does not have jurisdiction. The land is not restricted as the health administration has a lease arrangement with the Okfuskee County Hospital Trust Authority.

The woman alleged Hudson first assaulted her in July. In September, she claims she was raped when she sought treatment at the hospital for a migraine headache. Hudson is alleged to have given her morphine before the incident.

The next alleged rape was said to have occurred Feb. 14 when Hudson administered a pap smear.

The woman reported the incident the next day to Okemah police who turned to the OSBI. The two agencies used surveillance equipment to monitor a conversation the woman had with Hudson to discuss the incidents.

Hudson is reported to have implicated himself during the conversation and was arrested soon after. He was released on \$20,000 bond. The bond was reported to have been paid by a hospital employee though the source of the funds has not been revealed.

Hudson has had similar problems in his past. In 1989, he resigned from the U.S. Air Force following accusations that he had sexually assaulted three women and made indecent comments to a fourth woman.

In 1993, Hudson had surrendered his osteopathic license and his Oklahoma license was restricted from 1993 to 1996. The restriction was intended to prohibit Hudson from examining female patients without a nurse or another witness present.

Hudson has been a surgeon and chief of staff at the tribe's hospital for two years. It was reported his restrictions had been removed by the state last summer. He has been placed on administrative leave with pay.

In a prepared statement from health administration lawyer Allen Core, hospital administrator Phillip Bamoski said the staff will cooperate fully throughout



photo by Gerald Wofford

Monte Weavel, left, appeared as Snake leader Chitto Harjo and Harold Blalock as author Alexander Posey in the Tulsa Indian Actors Workshop adaptation of Julie Littlethunder's original play, "Indian Meadowlark," presented at the tribal capitol complex in March. The play dramatizes the personal and political conflicts of Muscogee writer and journalist Posey at the time of allotment.

## 1997 Festival and rodeo committees organized

OKMULGEE — The 23rd edition of the Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo will offer choices old and new for thousands expected to attend the annual tribal holiday June 20 through the 22.

The festival theme is Muscogee youth. The festival is dedicated to former principal chief and present tribal health board member Claude Cox.

Among the new or different events this year are: an eight-kilometer run — a combined event with the Muscogee Nation and the Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce; the Little Miss and Junior Miss Mvskoke (Creek) Nation pageant; and a juried art exhibition and sale.

The Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo begins the third Friday in June and is recognized as a tribal holiday in accordance with National Council Act 76-25.

The Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce begins the Pecan Festival on Thursday of the third weekend in June. At times in years past, the

relationship between the local chamber and tribal government has been acrimonious as the community set its festival near the tribal Festival. This year marks the 14th Annual Pecan Festival.

Rather than have competing runs, it was decided to combine efforts and have just one run. The distance has increased from five kilometers in past Festival runs to eight kilometers this year.

The Little and Junior Miss Mvskoke (Creek) Nation will have four age categories — three for the little miss pageant (ages two to 11) and one (ages 12 to 15) for the junior miss pageant. The pageant will be June 16 at the tribal capitol complex.

An opportunity for tribal artists, professional and student, to present their work to the tribal public will begin June 19 with judging and previewing of the professional and student juried art show. The exhibition will continue through June 27.

Organization is different as well this year. Rather than a Festival committee, this year, the

## Clarification

The maternal grandparents of two-year-old Hayla Marie Fogel, Tulsa Kiwanis Rotary Baby Pageant City Supreme Miss, were identified incorrectly in the February edition of *The Muscogee Nation News*. Maternal grandparents are Shirley Harjo Mitchell, Okemah, and the late Frank Mitchell. Randi and Jerry Fogel of Tulsa are her paternal grandparents.

The method of computing the proposed vehicle registration fee to be assessed on owners of vehicles in Muskogee, Okmulgee and Okfuskee counties will be based on the factory delivery price of the vehicle, less 10 percent of the tax paid by the manufacturer.

**Year 1:** \$125 \* Factory delivery price  
**Year 2:** \$95 Tax in Year 1.

Information as reported in the February issue of *The MNN* was incomplete.

## Legal notice

Printed in *The Muscogee Nation News*, volume 26, issue 3, March 1997

In the matter of the adoption of Patricia Lynn Littlehead, a minor Indian child, case no. JFJ 96-24. Notice of hearing, application for order determining child to be eligible for adoption without consent of natural parent, to Gary Lynn Littlehead, whereabouts unknown.

You are hereby notified that Alexandria Delphine Levier, has filed her petition in the District Court for the Sac and Fox Nation, for the adoption of Patricia Lynn Littlehead, together with her application for an order of this court, determining the said child, Patricia Lynn Littlehead, is eligible for adoption without your consent. Said application alleges that your consent to adoption is not required by law for the following reasons, to wit:

- That you for a period exceeding fourteen (14) years, next preceding, the filing of the Petition, has willfully failed, refused and neglected to contribute to the support of said child according to the parent's financial ability, and at no time during the aforementioned time periods, did you contribute to the support of said child, visit, or sent gifts;

- That the petitioner is the natural maternal grandmother of Patricia Lynn Littlehead and has had physical custody of the minor since July 1996, and the natural mother has signed a consent to adoption and termination of parental rights.

You are further notified that this court will hear the evidence in support of and in opposition to the granting of said adoption petition on the 11th day of April, 1997 at the hour of 1:30 p.m. at the courtroom of the said tribal court located five (5) miles south of Stroud, Oklahoma.

If you have any cause to show why the above mentioned adoption petition should not be granted by the court or why said child, Patricia Lynn Littlehead is not eligible for adoption without your consent you should appear and present the same at the above stated time and place.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto fix my official signature and seal of said court this 5th day of March, 1997.

(s) Phil Lujan, chief judge

## Dates and places

Tribal offices closed March 28

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation administration and tribal offices will be closed March 28 to observe Good Friday. Offices will open at 8 a.m., March 31.

### National Council meeting changed

OKMULGEE — The March session for the Muscogee (Creek) National Council has been moved to 10 a.m., March 22 at the tribal capitol complex. The except for May and December, the Council generally meets the last Saturday of the month. This month however, the last Saturday precedes Easter Sunday. The planning session will be moved up one week to March 18.

For more information, call the National Council offices at (918) 758-1416.

### Names sought for Eufaula dormitories

EUFALIA — The Muscogee Nation Eufaula Dormitory is seeking name suggestions its dorms from tribal citizens.

"The dorms were built in 1968-69 and have never been known as anything other than the girls dorm and boys dorm. I would like to name the dorms after Creek citizens who have had an influence at Eufaula Dormitory or in the education field," administrator Greg Anderson said.

Suggestions may be sent to Human Development Deputy Director Will Freeman at: P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

### Oklahoma JOM Conference scheduled

TULSA — The 13th Annual Oklahoma Johnson O'Malley Conference will be held March 25 through 27 at the Downtown Doubletree Hotel located at 616 W. 7th St.

The conference theme is "JOM: Academic Journey to the 21st Century;" The Choctaw Nation is this year's host tribe. Among conference opportunities are: attending workshops; exchanging ideas; sharing program information; and receiving the most recent Indian education information and its impact at the local, state, and national level. The on-site registration is \$150.

For more information, contact the Muscogee Nation JOM program office at: (918) 756-8700, ext. 608.

## Letters to the editor

### Councilman extends thanks

Editor:

I want to extend my appreciation to those who assisted in various capacities in the successful presentation of "Indian Meadowlark". They include: the Tulsa Indian Actors Workshop; the play cast; Eufaula Indian Community; Muscogee Nation facilities and communications department; Council representatives Phyllis Warrington and Jess Kelley; Evelyn Bucktrot; Danny Roberts; Gerald Wofford; Jerri On-The-Hill; Pat Morgan; and John Proctor.

Thanks also to the descendants of Alexander Posey and Chitto Harjo and to all of those in attendance. Again, thank you.

Thomas Yahola, Wetumka

## Former Miss Muscogee lands part

Rita Kate Beaver, center in photo, has landed a role as an extra in the CBS television movie "Stolen Women." The drama will be broadcast at 8 p.m., March 16. Beaver was the 1976-77 Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation. She is employed at Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, Kan.

submitted photo



## Surgeon

continued from page 1

the investigation.

Hudson remains free on \$20,000 bond. He is represented by Okemah attorney Bruce Coker. Hudson's preliminary hearing will be at 9 a.m., April 17 at the Okfuskee County Courthouse.

## The Muscogee Nation News

**The Muscogee Nation News** is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to **The Muscogee Nation News**, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in **The Muscogee Nation News**, guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of **The Muscogee Nation News**. Its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

The deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the third Friday of every month. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Accept of submissions he does not obligate.

**The Muscogee Nation News** is an independent publishing.

**The Muscogee Nation News** is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma, to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

James Wolfe, managing editor

Stephanie Sarryhill, senior staff writer

Summer Barnes, secretary

## Program announcements

### College and career fair set

**OKMULGEE** — Muscogee Nation Higher Education Department is hosting its second American Indian students college and career fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 5, at the human development center nutrition room and lobby at the tribal capitol complex, U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56.

Information about college, vocational and technical training, and applying for financial aid will be available at the fair. Representatives from area and state colleges, vocational training schools, and the Muscogee Nation will be available for consultation. The college and career fair is sponsored by the tribe's human development division and the higher education department. For more information, contact Chanenna Davis at (918) 756-8700, ext. 614, or 1 (800) 482-1979.

### Adult education program

**OKMULGEE** — Muscogee Nation Adult Education offers general equivalency diploma (GED) classes from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday at the human development center at the tribal capitol complex, U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56. Prospective students must be at least 17 years old and reside within the tribal jurisdictional boundaries. A certificate degree of Indian blood (CDIB) or valid Muscogee tribal enrollment card is required for program participation. To be eligible to take the state examination, applicants must be approved by the adult education program and the test center at Drumright. For more information, contact Cheryl Bear at (918) 756-8700, ext. 611, or 1 (800) 482-1979.

### Tribe submits grant proposal

**OKMULGEE** — Muscogee Nation, Okmulgee, and McIntosh county cooperative extension divisions are collaborating to secure an environmental pilot training program for elementary through eighth grade students of Okmulgee and McIntosh counties. The above partnership is an effort to meet the environmental needs of the elected schools and communities and a response to President Clinton's call for education reform.

### Hospital and clinics auxiliary forming

**HENRYETTA** — The Hettie S. Burgess Memorial Auxiliary is being formed to provide volunteers for service at the tribal hospital and clinics. A reception for those interested will be from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Creek Nation Community Hospital in Okemah. The public is invited and refreshments will be served.

The auxiliary, named for the late Hettie S. Burgess, a nurse, functions to bring together volunteers who desire to create greater community interest and understanding of the hospital and clinic and to provide assistance to the hospital and its patients.

Individuals must be at least 19 years old with the capacity to perform assigned duties and meet immunization requirements. Interested persons are required to make application for the auxiliary. To request an application or for more information, contact Shirley Almerigi at (918) 758-0762, or write, Rt. 3, Box 678, Henryetta, OK 74437.

### Johnson-O'Malley poster contest winners



photo by Stephanie Berryhill

Pictured are the Muscogee Nation Johnson O'Malley contest winners with tribal JOM manager Ken Taryole, left, and field specialist Sandra Peters, right. Seated, from left to right, are first through fourth place winners: Billy Wilson, Preston, 12th grade; Robert Deere, Holdenville, 9th grade; Clint Wilson, Morris, 7th grade; and Jonathon Augustine, Eufaula, 12th grade.

## Festival

continued from page 1

Festival has business officers appointed by the principal chief.

Members of that committee and telephone numbers are as follows:

- Floyd Jones, chair, (918) 756-8700, ext. 380;
- Ruthie Burgess, vice-chair, (918) 758-1410;
- Edwin Marshall, vice-chair, (918) 756-2112;
- Pat Morgan, secretary, (918) 756-8700, ext. 232;
- Kathy Guthrie, treasurer, (918) 758-1410; and
- Kolby Johnson, member, (918) 756-8700, ext. 374.



photo by Gerald Wofford

Sign of the times... Construction continues on the Muscogee Nation travel plaza in Okmulgee. No date has been given for the official opening for the plaza. Contractor for the project is Jim Butler Construction Co., Tulsa.

## Festival '97 notes

### Festival committee sponsors competitive art show

**OKMULGEE** — Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo committee will sponsor a competitive art exhibition and sale in conjunction with the festival. The show, beginning June 19 and continuing through June 27, will include viewing of both professional and student artwork.

The artwork will be judged on June 19. The exhibit will open with a reception and pre-viewing of the work on June 19 also artists are expected to attend. All professional artwork will be available for purchase.

The exhibit will include two shows: a professional competitive exhibition, and a student competitive art show. Each artist will be limited to three pieces. The top three works will be recognized, as well as an honorable mention.

The three categories for judging will include:

- paintings — all media, watercolor, acrylics, charcoal, etc.
- sculpture — wood, clay, stone, etc., and
- textiles — basketry, weaving, etc.

All entrants must provide proof of enrollment in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The deadline for entry is May 30.

For more information, contact Sandra Peters at (918) 756-8700, ext. 606, or 1 (800) 482-1979. Inquiries and requests for applications may also be addressed to Peters in care of: Muscogee Nation, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74417.

### Festival adds little and junior miss pageants

**OKMULGEE** — Additions to the list of tribal royalty for 1997 will include Little Miss Muskogee (Creek) Nation and Junior Miss Muskogee (Creek) Nation.

The little miss pageant will have three divisions for girls ages — two to four years, five to seven years, and eight to 11 years. The junior pageant will be for girls ages 12 to 15 years. The pageants will begin at 7 p.m., June 16 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Independent Agencies (mound) Building Auditorium.

Contestants must do the following to be eligible:

- provide proof of enrollment with the Muscogee Nation
  - live within Muscogee Nation boundaries
  - submit a photograph, and
  - be between the ages of two and 15 by June 16, 1997.
- Judging for the little miss contest will be based on poise and personality, as well as traditional dress. Judging for the junior miss contest will be based on poise and personality, traditional dress, a biographical essay (limit 100 words), and talent.

Deadline for entries is May 31.

For more information, contact Yvonne Havens at (918) 756-8700, ext. 129 or by mail at P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74417.

## Student review

### Citizen graduates from Kansas university

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Tribal citizen Christopher Colin Deere graduated from the University of Kansas with a bachelor of arts degree in anthropology last December.

He received his B.A. with an emphasis in sociology and psychology. Deere's future plans include pursuing masters and doctorate degrees in anthropology. He would like to work in the areas of American Indian cultural preservation and education.

Deere is the son of Dale Deere and Marsha Deere. He is the grandson of Herman and Margie Deere and Leonard and Polly Baker. His great-grandparents are the late Wiley and Elizabeth Deere.

### Watonga citizen makes unlikely ball shot

WATONGA — Watonga basketball player Bryan Beals made a 65-foot shot Dec. 19 during a game against Fairview freshmen.

With two seconds left in the first quarter, Beals grabbed a loose ball just outside the opponent's free throw line, dribbled once, took two steps, and launched what appeared to be a long fastbreak pass. Instead, the desperation heave resulted in a buzzer-beating three point basket.

It was not enough for victory however, as Fairview won the game.

### Bristow student makes honor roll

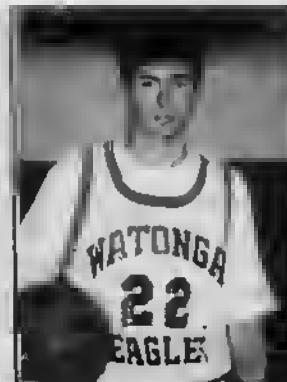
BRISTOW — Bristow sixth-grader Josh Cannon qualified for the principal's honor roll with a grade point average between 3.00 and 3.99.

Cannon belongs to the Wind Clan and Nuyaka Tribal Town.

Cannon participates in baseball, basketball, and football. He enjoys fishing also. He is the son of Connie and



Deere



Beals



Cannon

Carmen Cannon. His maternal grandmother is Marion Kaniatobe. Cannon is the paternal grandson of Lena Bluford. His maternal and paternal great-grandparents are the late Anderson and Martha Bigpond and Monnie Bluford.

### City citizen named student of the month

OKLAHOMA CITY — John Glenn Elementary first-grader Jimsey Fish Jr. earned the distinction of student of the month for December.

Fish has been listed on the honor roll also.

He is a member of the Astros little league baseball team. Fish's hobbies include riding his bike, fishing, and playing baseball.

His parents are Jimsey and Lynnelle Fish. Fish's grandparents are Mitchell and Jimmie Fish and Skipper Roberts and Mona Lowe.

### Shawnee student receives achiever award

SHAWNEE — Fifth grade North Rock Creek



Fish Jr.

student Derrick Hunter was received the honor of being named achiever of the second nine week period.

He demonstrated significant improvement compared to his previous efforts in academics. Teachers judge the achievement on an individual basis. Hunter was presented with a certificate and medal during a school-wide assembly. Hunter's photograph will be displayed on the school's main lobby bulletin board also.

He earned a red ribbon for qualifying for the assistant principal's honor roll; Hunter received a white ribbon for perfect attendance also.

His mother is Yolanda Hunter of Shawnee. Hunter is the grandson of Herb and Marian Stout, Fairview.

His great-grandmother is Maymie Haikey Chase of Woodward.

### Citizen makes honor college honor roll

CHECOTAH — Muscogee citizen Mark Ellis has been named to the dean's honor roll for the second consecutive semester at Tulsa Community College.

Ellis is majoring in computer science. He is a graduate of Will Rogers High School, Tulsa.

Ellis is the son of Kenneth Ellis of Checotah.

## Citizen to be featured in piano recital in Oklahoma City

OKLAHOMA CITY — Muscogee pianist and opera coach Timothy George Long will be featured in a piano recital at Oklahoma City University at 8 p.m., April 5.

It will be held at Petree Recital Hall, 2501 N. Blackwelder. Admission is free and open to the public.

Long graduated from OCU *magna cum laude*, and has a master of music degree from the Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester. Long has performed concerti with: the Eastman Philharmonica; the Eastman School of Symphony Orchestra; the Sociedad Filarmonica de Conciertos Orchestra of Mexico City; the Oklahoma Symphony; and the Beethoven Society Orchestra of Washington, D.C.

He has appeared in solo and chamber music concerts throughout the country including performances at: the Cleveland Museum of Art; Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall; Chicago's Dame Myra Hess Concert Series; and Aspen Music Festival. Recently, he performed in Kyoto, Japan at the International Music Festival.

Following doctoral studies at the Eastman School of Music, Long has pursued his avid interest in the vocal arts by working as an opera coach with the Ohio Light Opera and the Aspen Opera Theater Center. He is currently a member of the faculty at the Juilliard Opera Center and continues to teach at the Aspen Center in Colorado each summer. He was



Long

recently named the official pianist for the Connecticut district, New York district, and the eastern regional stages of the New York Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

Actively seeking a means of uniting the two worlds of classical music and traditional Native American Music, he coordinated and conducted "The Circle of Faith; Words of Chief Seattle," in a 1992 composition written by Alton Clingan. It incorporated the narrator as an American Indian elder, a string quartet and a Lakota drumming-singing group. Assisting artists were the Muir String Quartet and bassist James Vandemark. This premiered in Minnesota and was presented in Seattle, Wa. to the descendants of Chief Seattle. It was later presented in Rochester, N.Y. with the Six Nations Confederacy musicians.

Long performed a benefit solo recital at Turtle Mound, a historical Seneca village in upstate New York, dedicated to land preservation. Additionally, he conducted the world premiere of a new work by composer Linder Chlarsen and librettist Robert Conley entitled "Mountain Windsong." The musical traces the paths of four individuals along the "Trail of Tears." The cast was predominantly comprised of Cherokee performers from Oklahoma.

Long was born in Holdenville and now resides in New York City. He is a member of Thlophlocco Tribal Town, and of Mvskoke-Choctaw descent.

Long was a recipient of Muscogee Nation Higher Education scholarships during his undergraduate education. He is the son of Stella and Fred Long of Oklahoma City. His grandfather is the late Rev. George Long who was appointed to the tribal council during the administration of Chief Dode McIntosh.

## Arrivals and birthdays

## Wesla Butler

TULSA — Wesla Lee Butler was born Oct. 8 at Wetumka General Hospital to Wesley and Senora Manley Butler of Tulsa.

She weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20 and one-half inches in length.

Butler has two sisters, Aundrea and Justina.

Maternal grandparents are Elizabeth Thomas of Okmulgee and Hillis Manley of Dewar. Paternal grandparents are Nellie Butler of Tulsa and Wesley Butler Sr. of Okmulgee. Great-grandparents are: Mattie and Eugene Thomas Sr. of Okmulgee; Rosa Lee and the late George Manley, Weleetka; the late Andrew F. Butler; and Thomas Deere Harjo.

## Paris Fox

HOUSTON — Paris Ann Richey Fox was born Dec. 31 at Methodist Hospital to Thomas R. and Linda Fox.

She weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce.

She is the granddaughter of Dr. and Mrs. Milden J. Fox Jr. Her great-grandmother is the late Edith Brown Fox, Tulsa. Her great-great-grandmother is the late Eliza Bell Brown, Natura.

## Ronald Lowe Jr.

OKMULGEE — Ronald James Lowe Jr. was born Oct. 8 to Wenona Bunny and Ronald Lowe of Okmulgee.

He weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and was 19 and one-half inches in length.

Lowe is the brother of: Calesta Bunny, Moranda, Serinda, and Jessica Lowe of Okmulgee.

His maternal grandmother is Elizabeth Thomas of Okmulgee. Paternal grandparents are Martha and Eddie Lowe Sr. of Eufaula. Great-grandparents are Mattie and Eugene Thomas Sr. of Okmulgee and the late Abraham and Helen Bunny.

## Elias Miller

TULSA — Elias Tecumseh James Miller was born Aug. 13, 1996 at St. Francis Hospital to Mike and Bonnie Miller of Tulsa.

She is the first grandchild of paternal grandparents Sarah and Beaver Ward of Shawnee and the late James Miller, Prague. Maternal grandparents are Wendell and Elena Bigpond of Sapulpa. Paternal great-grandparents are: Susie and the late Charles Homer Miller of Prague; and the late Rev. Elliott and Cora Leitka, Okmulgee. Maternal great-grandparents are: Lucy and Kessler Bigpond of Bristow; and Margarita and the late Daniel Contreas of Los Angeles, Calif.

## Aundrea Butler

TULSA — Aundrea "Pumbaa" Rynn Butler celebrated her third birthday on Feb. 2 with family and



Butler

friends.

She is the daughter of Wesley and Senora Manley Butler of Tulsa.

Maternal grandparents are Elizabeth Thomas of Okmulgee and Hillis Manley of Dewar. Paternal grandparents are Nellie Butler of Tulsa and Wesley Butler Sr. of Okmulgee. Great-grandparents are: Mattie and Eugene Thomas Sr. of Okmulgee; Rosa Lee and the late George Manley, Weleetka; the late Andrew F. Butler; and Thomas Deere Harjo.

## Shaylend Chalakee

HENRYETTA — Shaylend Chalakee celebrated her fifth birthday Jan. 19 at McDonald's with friends and family.

She is the daughter of Carmen Chalakee of Okmulgee.

Her grandparents are Barbara Alexander, Pendleton, Ore. and William Chalakee, Okmulgee. Chalakee is the great-granddaughter of the late Webster and Martha Chalakee.

## Deion Dee

RED MESA, Ariz. — Deion "Lvmhece" James Dee celebrated his first birthday on Sept. 13 with a Dallas Cowboys party theme.

The day-long festivities included games and gospel singing.

Dee is the son of James and Tina Dee of Red Mesa. He has one sister, Tamiko, age four.

His maternal grandparents are Timmy and Joyce Thompson of Yardeka Community. He is the paternal grandson of Ralph and Jenny Dee of Red Mesa.

## Rachel Harjo

HARTSHORNE — Greenleaf Tribal Town member Rachel Harjo celebrated her 14th birthday Feb. 11.

Harjo belongs to the Wind Clan and Fishpond ceremonial ground also.

Her mother and stepfather are Sheila Harjo and Wesley Butler Sr. of Okmulgee.

Maternal grandparents are Naomi Harjo and Gary Mitchell of Okemah and the late J.W. Harjo Sr. Paternal grandparents are Patsy and Ralph Horton of Tulsa. Her paternal great-grandfather is Lloyd Ingle of Tulsa.

The 7th-grade Jones Academy student is on the honor roll. She plays clarinet, basketball, and participates in the intertribal club also.

## Sharon Harjo

OKEMAH — Greenleaf Tribal Town member Sharon Harjo celebrated her 14th birthday Jan. 18 with a stompdance at Okemah Indian Community Center.

Members of Peach Ground, Tallahassee, Nuyaka, and Gar Creek were among those attending.

Harjo belongs to the Wind Clan and is a member of Greenleaf and Fishpond ceremonial grounds.



Butler

Her mother and stepfather are Sheila Harjo and Wesley Butler Sr. of Okmulgee.

Maternal grandparents are Naomi Harjo and Gary Mitchell of Okemah and the late J.W. Harjo Sr. Her paternal grandfather is Bill Hiatt of Okmulgee. She is the paternal great-granddaughter of Cinda Wind of Okmulgee.

The Beardon 8th-grade student plays basketball and is a cheerleader.

## Tecumseh-LaMere marry in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS — Sehoyah Tecumseh of Oklahoma City and Brian S. LaMere of Las Vegas were married Feb. 14 at Shalimar Wedding Chapel.

She belongs to the Alligator Clan and Koweta Tribal Town and is a 1993 graduate of Okmulgee High School.

She is the daughter of Anita Freeman Cox of Oklahoma City and Andrew Tecumseh of rural Okmulgee.

LaMere is the son of Marilyn LaMere of Wisconsin Dells, Wis. and Anthony Barker of Sisseton, S.D.

Attending the ceremony were family and friends. The bride's mother served as matron of honor. The groom's brother, Curtis, served as best man. A reception was given by the groom's family following the ceremony.

The couple, along with their 17-month-old daughter, Kyla, will be making their home in Las Vegas where he is employed in contract construction.

## Citizen's art places at Sorghum Days' fest

WEWOKA — Wewoka citizen John R. Yahola received second and third place in the Sorghum Days Festival Arts and Crafts competition.

Yahola, a self-taught artist, entered his artwork in the wildlife category.

He is Katcvlike and belongs to Nuyaka Tribal Town.

Yahola is the son of Sam and Juanita Yahola. His maternal grandparents are Alfred and Munna Deer. Paternal grandparents are the late Roman Yaholar and Nettie Tiger.

## Smith family to hold 5th annual reunion

LAMAR — The 5th Annual Smith Family Reunion will begin at 10 a.m., May 24 at Middle Creek #1 Baptist Church.

Those attending are requested to bring a covered dish.

For more information, contact Annette Lowe at: (405) 379-6752.

## Glenpool community opens giftshop

GLENPOOL — Glenpool Creek Indian Community has opened a giftshop with operation hours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

Pauline Haney is the manager of the shop, located at 13839 S. Casper.

Among items the shop carries are: Mvskoke-English dictionaries; language lessons and tapes; Mvskoke hymn books; first and second Mvskoke readers; ballsticks; finger woven stompdance sashes; baskets; jewelry (sterling silver and beaded); beadwork (hatbands and jewelry); clothing (shawls, t-shirts); and ceramics (lamps and nightlights).

For more information, call the giftshop at: (918) 291-5300.



Tecumseh-LaMere

# Ollie Grayson Moody

*"You wasn't allowed to speak your language...if they catch you talking Creek, they give you a card to wear at noon hour said —*

**'I TALK CREEK....'"**

*story and photos  
by Stephanie Berryhill*

**A**s the City of Tulsa celebrates the centennial of its incorporation, it's not likely its officials will promote the *Tallasi Locapokv* people as originating founders of their city actually 60 years earlier.

Nor will they tell you that their city is built upon land allotments of *Muskogee* peoples who were deliberately indebted to bankers and merchants with the intention of foreclosure in the name of progress.

By the end of the 19th century, the U.S. government had delivered what must have seemed as its final blow. With the extension of the Curtis Act to include the Five Tribes, tribal governments were abolished and their peoples forced to submit to allotment.

Born into this time of disillusionment was Ollie Grayson Moody; she was born June 14th, 1902

big town then, like it is now."

In Tulsey Town Joe Grayson was known well enough to rent a room at the Capitol Hotel and leave his children under the supervision of staff until he finished conducting business a day or two later.

The development of south Tulsa is so extensive that the city draws closer to the family church also. Located on 101st Street, Haikey Chapel is less than a mile east of one of the city's most travelled streets, Memorial Drive.

A Haikey Chapel member since 1904, she remembers Haikey, Bland, and Bemo family members among those attending Haikey after the turn of the century.

Today, urban church members often fellowship with one another regardless of denomination. Ollie said visiting at churches of other faiths



on the allotment of her father.

Joe Buck Grayson had not strayed far from "Tulsey Town." The town's beginnings were initiated by his *Tallasi Locapokv* grandmothers and grandfathers when they rekindled their ceremonial fire near the banks of the Arkansas River around 1837. His allotment was just over a mile from the river, near what is now Sand Springs — a town nearly a suburb of Tulsa, split through its middle by the river.

Ollie was raised on the allotment of her mother, Menene Frank Grayson. Located only three miles from the Arkansas River, it has now been engulfed into the metropolis of Tulsa.

Ollie remembers a time when bridges crossing the Arkansas into Tulsa were few. The Graysons had to load their wagon and team on a flatboat to get across the river into town. "It wasn't a very

was not common, although church peoples were always amicable toward one another.

"...Koweta, that was a Baptist church over there at Coweta...but we didn't go. Methodists didn't mix with the Baptist church."

However her family did mix at the stomping grounds. She believes it was more commonplace for Muskokee people to attend both church and ceremonial grounds than it is now.

"My dad was a leader, you know. They'd call on him...he'd lead. He'd go everytime they [Kvsetta Ceremonial Ground] have camp. He went to church too, in between time."

Of ribbon dances at Polecat Ceremonial Ground she recalls that the women danced on an area that was "knoll-like" wearing long, cotton dresses of subtle color with many narrow ribbons.

Because her father owned an audio recording

device, members of different grounds often filled the Grayson home to record stompdance songs. Ollie said the disks that were similar in appearance to phonograph records, yet much smaller. Ground leaders gathered at their home for these recordings often, although she does not know what became of the records.

Her father was not educated formally, although he used what means available to educate his children during their early years.

"My dad, he bought us school books...like first reader.... It didn't take but a few days for me to get started. I was easy learned."

From this home school-environment her father sent her to Eufaula Boarding School. She credits the school with teaching her to cook, sew, crochet, as well as play the piano.

She spoke little English at the time she entered school in 1917; by the time she left her English was fluent.

"You wasn't allowed to speak your language..if they catch you talking Creek, they give you a card to wear at noon hour said — 'I T A L K C R E E K.' They never did catch me at it. They [students] didn't much like it, but they couldn't say nothing. They couldn't talk back you know."

Ollie was one of few boarding school girls that offered their services to the Red Cross during school holidays. The girls contributed to the war effort by preparing bandages and knitting socks, scarves, and caps.

She was preparing to attend Haskell when one of her younger sisters died. Her mother had passed away in 1910 and, being the oldest of five children, her father called her home.

"I was getting ready to go to Haskell, so he made me quit. He didn't have much education...he didn't know anything about it, [but] I listened to him."

Ollie recalls the days during the first half of this century when butchering hogs was a family, sometimes community effort. All parts of the hog, from head to hoof, were utilized. Her father raised many hogs, butchering and preserving the meat himself. The fat was rendered for cooking grease. Not even entrails were left for waste.

"There's a lot of work to that chitlins. You've

done. Put it in a big old pan then work it up; put seasons in it...salt and pepper."

After marrying Chevrolet salesman William Moody, a Cherokee, she moved to Bixby. Shortly after she began working in a local cafe she and a business partner bought the establishment and renamed it "Ollie and Inez." She and Inez sold the cafe eventually. Ollie was the owner of several rental properties also.

She has worked for Bixby Public Schools and the Camelot Hotel also.

Ollie has retained ownership of 40 acres of her allotment. She has never lived on the property, located in Creek County, north of Bristow. When the livelihood of most Indian and non-Indian Oklahomans had been devastated by the depression, her land



Ollie and Imogene Harjo greet one another during the farewell handshake at the closing of the Northeast District Senior Methodists Annual Camp, Concharty United Methodist Church, May 1995. Liza Berryhill of Bristow, far left, and the late LouAnna Barnett are pictured behind her.



is they said."

Making hog head cheese was a tedious task as well. When asked if the eyes were included in the cheese, she laughed. "You don't put the eyeballs in there — might see too much."

Ollie said the snout was removed, then the hog's head was quartered and separated from the skull preliminary to cooking.

"You just take the hog head and have someone trim it for you good. Take all that black stuff off of there...whiskers I call it, pig skin and everything like that. You put it in a big old pot and add a little water to it and cook it slow...it takes about near all day to get it done. After it gets cold, it's

provided income for her.

"One time they struck a little oil, but it was in the water...that was during the time of depression...I was getting a pretty good [payment] off of it, but they stopped all that...so I [was] just set back flat."

**Editor's note:** Ollie is *Hecete* ("Hitchite"). Her maternal grandparents were "Frank" and "Nancy" [per Creek Nation Roll Card No. 2425], both were *Hecete*. Both of her paternal great-grandparents, Stephen and Lucy Grayson, were *Tallasí Locapokv*.

Currently occupying the land which was her mother's allotment is Forest Trails Addition, located between Sheridan Avenue and Memorial Drive near 111th Street in Tulsa.

Unit Rig, a manufacturer of off-highway mining trucks, occupies her father's former allotment at 5400 S. 49 W. Avenue near Sand Springs.

Ollie is the mother of two sons, William "Bill" Moody Jr. of Bristow and the late Jimmy Moody. She has one sister living, Mary Marshall of Bristow.

Ollie still attends Hailey Chapel.

She resides at Bixby Manor.

# JOY HARJO



A message of  
love and grace  
for the next  
millennium

Joy Harjo & Poetic Justice  
*Letter from the End of  
the Twentieth Century*  
Red Horses, 1996

As a young teenager attending Tulsa Public Schools, Harjo was attracted to the saxophone. Her inquiries about playing the most soulful of instruments were rebuffed.

"I was told I couldn't play the sax because I was a girl," recalled Harjo.

Eight years ago, Harjo began playing the saxophone. By 1992, she was playing gigs with her band, Poetic Justice. Today, Harjo and Poetic Justice are receiving raves for their melding of jazz and poetry as a means to express their collective vision.

"It's hard to find your way in this world as an artist," Harjo said. "Poetry and music do it for me because I love it. Part of my love comes out as a love for music."

Indeed, Harjo is an accomplished poet and author recognized internationally for her passionate expressions of common human experiences in her work. Though emotions are universal, her perspective as an Indian is never obscured.

## Hilary Knight

The Lakota Poet: Joy Harjo, 1996

- 1. What Moon Drove Me to This? (1979)
- 2. Remember, Strawberry Press, 1981
- 3. She Had Some Horses, Thunder's Mouth Press, 1983
- 4. Secrets From the Center of the World, the University of Arizona Press, 1989
- 5. In Mad Love and War, Wesleyan University Press, 1990
- 6. Fishing, Ox Head Press, 1992
- 7. The Woman Who Fell From the Sky, W.W. Norton, 1994
- 8. The Spiral of Memory: Interviews, University of Michigan Press, 1996

Harjo has contributed to many literary journals and collections. Taped recordings of her poetry have been issued as well.

Nor is her identity shaded on this disc of her selected poems set to music. In fact, Harjo says this collaborative effort is steeped in Muscogee tradition of rhythmic story telling and song.

*Letter* has been categorized by the music press as world music — a silly label developed by critics and music industry types to classify music that won't get played on mainstream country and rock stations. That such a label would apply to a group of indigenous musicians is ironic.

Fusion became the word to describe music that

are dutifully mentioned in reviews and commentary about *Letter*.

What this music does have is soul. It is at once a pleasant and provocative listening experience. Descriptions of the music are inadequate. *Letter* is to be experienced with discussion centered on its affect to the listener.

It has become a cliche for many artists to say their work is a catharsis. To her credit, Harjo has avoided such claims. True, some of her work is extremely personal, with stark and graphic images from her experience, but never overwhelming.

"I want my work to make sense to the people at home," Harjo said.

*Fear Poem*, from her collection "She Had Some Horses," is one such track. Here, the artist acknowledges the fear of being and intimacy, releases the demon, and is redeemed through the acceptance of personal responsibility for the damning effect of being consumed with fear.

From this listener's perspective, *She Had Some Horses* (from her collection of the same title) comes closest to being the representative cut on this disc. A reggae beat with rhythm and blues guitar riffs and Harjo's lilting saxophone solos accompany her lyrics about a woman who has known controlling, delusional, and selfish

men symbolized by horses whose behavior depict these destructive characteristics.

Her gift of phrasing is evident in the recitations and just as apparent with her lyrical saxophone solos. The other members of Poetic Justice are accomplished musicians who play many instruments with stylish subtlety. Think cool. There are no histrionics which is consistent with the group's native sense of community.

This is a group whose collective whole is far greater than its sum, but Harjo is its driving force. Keenly aware of her role as messenger, Harjo, with humility born from perspective, dismisses reviewers hailing her as the native voice. "There is a history of our people speaking at the borders of the culture but I don't think anyone can be the native voice. There is no such thing, particularly among Muscogee."

Perhaps. It is understandable the aversion to sweeping pronouncements that mean nothing but might bring attention to her while distracting from her work. Still, Harjo is delivering messages that should be heard.

We are however, nearing the millennium, desperate for order in this chaotic and seemingly random, universe. Listening to *Letter* suggests we should find deliverance within.

Note: *Letter from the End of the Twentieth Century* is available in compact disc only from Red Horses Records, P.O. Box 40726, Albuquerque, NM, 87196. The cost is \$18.

— by Jim Wolfe

**bio**

**Joy Harjo**  
born in a town called  
Kahville and Oceapoly Tribal Town  
born: 1951, Tulsa  
**parents:** Wynema Baker Jewell,  
Cherokee, of Decatur, Ark. and the  
late William Posler Jr., Okmulgee  
**initial draft:** 4 months  
in treatment, the late Naomi Klein,  
Tulsa, Okmulgee, Henry  
Fonda, John Wayne, etc.  
**first reading:** The "Gospel of  
Matthew" and "The Bhagavad Gita"  
**early influences:** From the  
family, including mom  
and dad, and with her  
sister, "I'm a Girl, I'm  
not a woman," her mother  
recited.  
**home:** Tulsa  
**current residence:** Albuquerque,  
NM  
**saving grace:** Harjo's talent first  
evidenced itself in the form of award  
winning artwork at the grade school  
level. For a child growing up in a  
chaotic home environment, that's  
kind of what saved me.

**bio**

**bio**

**letter**  
the letter is the title of the  
SANTA FE, N.M., B.A. University of  
New Mexico; M.F.A. in creative  
writing, Iowa Writer's Workshop, the  
University of Iowa; Anthropology Film  
Center, Santa Fe

**poetry**

the letter is the title of the  
New Mexico State University  
to pursue graduate studies  
and complete her M.F.A. in creative  
writing. Her work includes  
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Albuquerque Journal, and the  
Santa Fe New Mexican.

**poetry**

## Wild onion dinners

**Who:** Big Gusselah United Methodist

**When:** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., March 15

**Cost:** \$8, adults; \$3 for children 12 and under

**Where:** 1 1/2 miles east of Okmulgee on U.S. highway 22 and three and one-half miles south on Route 3 Bell Road

**Who:** First United Methodist

**When:** 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., March 15

**Cost:** \$5 for adults; \$2.50 for children 10 and under

**Where:** 8500 E. 101st St., Tulsa (101st and Memorial)

**Who:** Thlophlocco United Methodist

**When:** noon to 7 p.m., March 15

**Cost:** \$5, adults; \$3 for children

**Where:** Eight miles south of Okemah on state highway 27 and eight miles west of Wetumka on state highway 27

**Who:** Concharta United Methodist

**When:** 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., March 22

**Cost:** \$5 for adults; \$2.50 for children 10 and under

**Where:** From state highway 16, drive four miles north on Dixie Road and one mile east

**Who:** Heritage Full Gospel Tabernacle

**When:** 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 22

**Cost:** \$5 for adults; \$2.50 for children 12 and under

**Where:** 619 W. Poplar, Holdenville

**Who:** Muscogee Indian Community Senior Action Group

**When:** 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., March 22

**Cost:** \$4.50, adults; \$2 for children eight and under

**Where:** 111 S. Virginia, Muskogee



photo by Stephanie Berryhill

Principal Chief Perry Beaver, second from left, presents flowers and delivers birthday greetings to Polly Homma of Okmulgee. Homma, an original allottee, turned 97 years old. Pictured from left are: National Council representative George Tiger; Beaver; Homma; and second chief George Almerigi.

## Indian health scholarships available

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Indian Health Service and Department of Health and Human Services announces the availability of scholarship funding for the health professions preparatory, pre-graduate, and Indian health professions scholarship programs.

Applications accepted for this competitive award cycle are for the 1997-98 academic year.

In order for an applicant to be considered for preparatory funding during the fiscal year 1997 scholarship cycle, the student must be accepted or enrolled in a college or university beginning fall 1997.

The health professions scholarship program offers financial assistance to Indian students enrolled full or part-time in health professions and allied health profession programs. This scholarship requires a service obligation and payback requirements that the recipient incurs upon acceptance of the scholarship funding. This scholarship requires the student must be accepted or enrolled in a college or university beginning fall 1997 in a health-related professions school within the U.S. in one of the priority career categories: accounting; associate degree nurse; chemical dependency counselor; clinical psychology (Ph.D. only); computer science (B.S.); dentistry; dietician (B.S.); health education (master's level only); health records (A.R.T. and R.R.T.); medical technology (B.S.); medical social work (master's level only); medicine (allopathic and osteopathic); nurse practitioner (R.N.A. and F.N.P.); nurse midwife (C.N.M.); nurse (B.S., M.S.); optometry; para-optometric; pharmacy (B.S.); physician assistant (B.S.); physical therapy; podiatry (D.P.M.); public health (M.P.H.); public health nutrition (master's level); radiologic technology (certificate, associate, B.S.); respiratory therapy (associate); and sonography.

The themes for the conference are: native American language preservation; exemplary Indian education programs; technical assistance for Indian education programs; higher education, scholarships, financial aid, retention and graduate programs; adult education and Johnson O'Malley program forum; parent involvement; and education legislative issues.

## National Indian education groups to meet in Seattle

SEATTLE, Wash. — The National Coalition for Indian Education and the Tribal Education Contractor's Association are holding a joint conference April 30 through May 2.

The themes for the conference are: native American language preservation; exemplary Indian education programs; technical assistance for Indian education programs; higher education, scholarships, financial aid, retention and graduate programs; adult education and Johnson O'Malley program forum; parent involvement; and education legislative issues.

The conference, "Making Our Visions a Reality: Strategies for 2000," will be held at the Red Lion Hotel. The preregistration rate of \$150 is due by April 11. On-site registration is \$175.

The workshop proposal deadline is March 28. For an agenda and proposal information, contact Dean Azule at: CTGR Education, 9615 Grand Ronde, OR 97347; call or fax, (800) 422-0232, ext. 2276, (503) 879-2479. For registration information, contact Bob Tom at: OTECA, P.O. Box 21056, Salem, OR 97307; call or fax, (503) 390-9494, (503) 390-8099.

information, write the area IHS office or call: (405) 951-3939; (405) 951-3759; or (800) 829-7044 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

## Indian engineers offer summer program

BOULDER, Colo. — The American Indian Science and Engineering Society is seeking applicants for its summer work experience program June 2 through August 8.

The 10-week internship program provides qualified American Indian-Alaska Native students with opportunities to explore potential federal service careers. Interns receive a competitive stipend and round-trip travel expenses between home or school and the worksite. Interns work with U.S. federal government agencies in Washington D.C. and other locations throughout the country. Under the guidance of mentors, AISES summer interns work on projects relevant to their course of college study.

Applicants must: have a grade point average of at least 2.0; be enrolled and pursuing a degree in a college or university on full-time basis; have at least sophomore class standing at the time assignment begins; and be a U.S. citizen.

For more information write: AISES-Jobs, Attn. Stephanie Paine, 5661 Airport Blvd., Boulder, CO 80301-2339; call (303) 939-0023, ext. 31; or e-mail, stephanie.paine@colorado.edu. Application materials can be accessed on the World Wide Web at <http://www.colorado.edu/AISES>. Completed application materials must be received by April 11.

## Benefit stamp dance

OKEMAH — A benefit stamp dance for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation will be held March 22 at the Muskogee Creek Center, 101 N.W. 10th Street. The dance will begin at 5 p.m., with stamp dance following at 7 p.m. The center is located just south of Interstate 44 on state highway 27.

## Obituaries

### ELLACHAUDHURI

TEMPE, Ariz. — Funeral services for Ella Jean Hill Chaudhuri were held Feb. 21 at Tempe Mortuary.

She died Feb. 17 at her Tempe home. She was born to Wilburn and Mary Ann Hill on May 29, 1937 at the Okfuskee County allotment of her grandfather, James Scott.

Chaudhuri belonged to the Bear Clan and Oceapofv Tribal Town. She was the daughter of the Bird Clan and Greenleaf Tribal Town.

She was the granddaughter of Micco Elmer Hill of Fish Pond and Rhoda Yahola. Chaudhuri was raised with the traditional teachings of her grandfather Scott, John Brown, Billy Osceola, Netche Gray, and other elders.

Chaudhuri attended: Eufaula Boarding School; Tulsa Central High School; Oklahoma City Public Schools; and several universities.

Her parents were associated with Greenleaf Baptist Church and actively involved in spiritual work in the Muscogee Nation and Florida. With her siblings, Clifton, Nathaniel, and Rechinda, Chaudhuri assisted in her parent's work. She was a civil rights activist as well as lobbyist for issues that affected Mvskokvlke people. Chaudhuri was a supporter and participant in many grassroots Indian activities, including the Youth and Elders' Conference, initiated by the late Phillip Deere.

She considered the most important part of her education to be that which was imparted by tribal elders, the teachings she learned at Greenleaf church grounds, and her work experiences. Chaudhuri had worked on many projects including: Creek oral history (upon which her unpublished book, "A Sacred Path: The Way of the Muscogee Creeks," is based); Seminole oral history, University of Florida; urban, rural, intertribal, and ethnic coalition work; Indian public policy development; alcohol prevention programs; educational programs; cultural and land preservation; writing, theater, dancing, and story telling; ecumenical work; spiritual counseling with the Arizona Department of Corrections; and appointments to various boards and commissions. She had testified before: councils; mayors; governors; legislative committees; and battled a multitude of bureaucracies.

She actively taught the Mvskokvlke teachings of the four seasons of a woman's life — spring, the age of learning; summer, the age of involvement; fall, the age of sharing and teaching; and winter, the age of wisdom.

Chaudhuri was preceded in death by: her grandparents; parents; and two brothers.

She is survived by: her husband, Joy; two sons, Joydev "Paul" Mahagi, and Jonodev "Jon" Osceola; her sister; a nephew, Lance; and mother-in-law, Sulata.

### THOMAS PHILLIPS

EUFALUA — Funeral services for Thomas "Culotkv" Phillips were held Dec. 28 at Artussee Indian Baptist Church with Revs. Dion Francis and Jimmy Alexander officiating.

He died Dec. 25 of a sudden illness in Tulsa. Phillips was born May 31, 1948 in Eufaula.

He served on active duty in the Army for 10 years



Chaudhuri

## Religion briefs

### Church revivals abundant in March

#### Mutteloke United Methodist

BRISTOW — Mutteloke United Methodist Church has scheduled a revival to be held March 17, 18, and 19.

Services begin at 7 p.m. each night. Speakers will be: Rev. Jerry Byrd, March 17; Rev. Sam Horse, March 18; and Rev. Jerry Baker, March 19.

The church is located at 1400 S. Poplar.

#### Springfield United Methodist

OKEMAH — Springfield United Methodist Church has scheduled a revival to be held March 20 through 23.

#### Muscogee seniors to hold gospel singing

MUSKOGEE — Muscogee Indian Community Senior Action Group is holding a gospel singing following its wild onion dinner March 22.

The singing will begin at 7 p.m. The master of ceremonies is Robert Jones. For more information, contact Jones at (918) 682-2164.

#### Newtown United Methodist

OKMULGEE — Newtown United Methodist Church has scheduled revival services on March 23 through 26 at 7 nightly.

and was in the U.S. Army Reserve for 16 years. He was a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict and had achieved the rank of sergeant first class.

Phillips was an active, lifelong member of Artussee church. He was employed as a maintenance worker for the State of Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Patricia Phillips.

Phillips is survived by: his wife, Sharon Lentz Phillips of the home; two children, Nathan and Laura Phillips of South Carolina; one grandson; his parents, Willie and Martha Phillips of Eufaula; four sisters, Anna King of Tulsa, Alice Osbum of Okay, Rose Mary Sulphur of Kansas City, Mo., and Stephanie Phillips of Tahlequah; four brothers, Raymond Tiger, Matthew, Anthony, and Adam Phillips, all of Eufaula.

Graveside honors were presented by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Color Guard.

Pallbearers were: Sam Marshall; Robert Francis; Jackson Lewis; Gary King; Francis Lewis; and Joe McGirt. Honorary pallbearers were: Bird Creek Phillips; Bob King; Joc Sulphur; Richard Osbum; and Arnold Fields.

Interment was in the veterans section of Eufaula Greenwood Cemetery.

#### ROSEMARY FIELDS

HITCHITA — Funeral services for Rose Marie Fields were held Feb. 18 at Grave Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Chris Harjo officiating.

Wake services were held at the church Feb. 17.

Fields died Feb. 14 in Okmulgee. She was born to Solomon and Cinda Hill Fields on Aug. 27, 1926 near Morris.

Fields was a lifelong resident of Okmulgee County and a homemaker. She was a member of Grave Creek church.

She was preceded in death by: her parents; two sons, Daniel Brown and Paul Johnson; and one daughter, Phyllis Brown.

Survivors include: four sons, Solomon and Joseph Johnson, both of Okmulgee, Cy and George Johnson, both of Tulsa; three daughters, Wanda Milles of Mor-

The following churches will be holding devotions and speakers: March 23, Conchart, Rev. Thomas Roughface; March 24, Pickett Chapel, Rev. Jerry Baker; March 25, Fife Memorial, Rev. Paul Samuels; and March 26, Choska, Rev. Jackie Davis.

Good Friday services will be held at 7 p.m., March 28. For more information, call Pastor Dave Long Jr. at: (918) 756-5222.

#### Wewoka Indian United Methodist

WEWOKA — Wewoka United Methodist Church has scheduled a revival to be held April 16, 17, and 18.

Services begin at 7 p.m. each night. The speaker will be Rev. Lynn Mims. The church is located one mile east and six miles north on Yeager Road.

#### United tribes for Christ to hold all-day event

OKEMAH — On April 19 United Tribes for Christ Fellowship is holding an all-day flea market, and food sale, with a gospel singing in the evening.

The flea market will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; booths are available at no charge on a first-come-first-serve basis. The food sale will be held from 11:30 a.m. to midnight. Singing will be from 6 p.m. to midnight also.

All proceeds will go toward the UTCF Annual Campmeeting to be held May 27 through 31 in Anadarko.

For more information, call: (405) 677-2335.

ris, Beverly Grummett and Jessina Torres, both of Dallas, Texas; four foster children, Geraldine Berryhill of Okmulgee, Bo Johnson of McAlester, Amber and Jerome Tiger, both of Morris; one brother and sister, Wiley Sampson and Alice Freeman, both of Okmulgee; 38 grandchildren; and 37 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Billy Richards; Bourbon LaSarge; Jerry Roberts; Billy Grimes; Robert Mitchell; Jerry Davis; Bob McCart; Jimmy Carter; Kenneth Tiger; and Floyd Jones.

#### SHIRLEY YARGEE

NUYAKA — Funeral services for Shirley Ann Yargee were held Feb. 21 at Nuyaka Indian Baptist Church.

Wake services were held Feb. 20 at Robert Simons Funeral Home.

Yargee died Feb. 19 in Tulsa. She was born Feb. 17, 1947 in Claremore to Frisco and Francis Birdcreek Roberts.

She was a homemaker and member of Nuyaka church.

She is survived by: her husband, Amon Yargee of the home; two sons, Frisco Yargee of the home, and Randy Roberts of Oklahoma City; one daughter, Gene Yargee of Oklahoma City; four brothers, Terry, Mandrell and Allen Roberts, all of Tulsa, and Tony Roberts of Wyoming; two sisters, Ida Roberts of Tulsa and Lena Bemo of Sapulpa; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

## Gratitude

We would like offer our thanks to all friends and relatives who came to us during our time of grief to cook, perform errands, and the many other tasks.

Many thanks for the beautiful flowers, contributions, and prayers.

A special thank you is extended to: Muscogee Nation; Artussee Baptist Church; and Eufaula community center. Mvto.

Thomas Phillips Family

## Muscogee (Creek) Nation quarterly financial statement

quarter ending Sept. 30, 1996 (all numbers rounded to nearest dollar)

Program name	Receipts	Budget	Encumbered	Expended	Unencumbered
ICUSA	24,052	691,436	0	534,380	157,056
MCN Legal Defense Fund	8,099	132,112	0	44,775	87,337
Treasury	418,650	388,000	0	363,647	24,353
Litigation and lobbying	35,243	712,959	0	700,125	12,833
General taxes and licenses	1,277,693	1,445,432	0	1,256,281	189,150
Administration/Indirect	2,266,619	2,125,708	0	1,808,644	317,064
Consumer Loans	24,002	0	0	(50,626)	50,626
Creek Nation Bingo	2,110,163	2,412,718	0	2,083,103	329,614
CN permanent fund	1,928,017	320,925	0	186,638	134,288
Tom Johnson permanent fu	68,883	0	0	2,467	(2,467)
Cultural preservation	1,111	1,002	0	0	1,002
Tribal budget	1,044,599	559,168	0	517,426	41,742
Tax commission	159,956	164,981	0	140,682	24,299
Division of human developm	397,662	398,576	0	397,662	914
Indian home grant	60,301	726,159	0	60,301	665,858
Child care DBG 92	391,371	391,998	0	391,371	627
Title IVB children's fund	(4,556)	0	0	0	0
Children and family services	1,310,291	1,709,442	0	1,310,291	399,151
Family violence prevention	40,887	49,120	0	40,887	8,233
LIHEAP '96	68,760	76,185	0	68,760	7,425
95 Comm. DBG	153,166	1,586,213	0	153,166	1,433,047
Head Start Proj II	87,653	1,215,800	0	87,653	1,128,147
Family preservation	0	148,896	0	0	148,896
Title IV-B, child welf.	164,699	224,532	0	164,699	59,833
Family violence prevention	0	54,635	0	0	54,635
Tribal affairs	20,141	10,492	0	9,484	1,008
Division of human developm	26,327	51,317	0	26,327	24,990
FDP FY 93	296,800	303,291	0	296,800	6,491
96 nutrition education	29,626	31,124	0	29,626	1,498
Oral and literacy	0	2,500	0	0	2,500
Archeological investigation	5,614	22,416	0	5,614	16,802
Head Start USDA reimburse	72,189	109,073	0	72,189	36,884
Eufaula Dorm ectivity fund	49,981	0	0	0	0
Election board	1,409	18,750	0	13,632	5,118
Citizenship board	3,077	1,200	0	1,199	2
Revolving fund	10,553	6,000	0	5,836	164
Self-governance compact	4,615,696	4,952,531	0	4,615,696	336,835
Division of human developm	11,230	107,541	0	11,230	96,311
Eufaula Dormitory	1,067,212	1,501,020	0	1,067,212	433,808
Tribal self-governance	136	2,200	0	901	1,299
BIA transportation improvem	42,770	48,219	0	42,770	5,450
JOM program	158,534	184,174	0	158,534	25,640
SG negotiation grant	82	1,315	0	0	1,315
Comprehensive planning	0	49,613	0	49,221	392
Division of tribal affairs	403,072	650,000	0	403,072	246,928
JOM early childhood	13,256	13,256	0	13,256	0
Johnson-O'Malley	781,297	981,089	0	781,297	199,792
Equip. pool/roads pool	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation improvement	0	46,529	0	0	46,529
Kellyville bridge	19,250	855,000	0	19,250	835,750
Employment and training	473	46,618	0	473	46,145
Employment and trainging	131,011	634,920	0	131,011	503,909
Head Start FY 96	751,102	950,762	(77)	751,102	199,737
Violence against women	1,808	75,000	0	1,808	73,192
Children's justice program	2,862	60,000	0	2,862	57,138
Community centers project	391,653	1,187,912	0	391,653	796,259
Community service bldg.	366,132	372,921	0	366,132	6,789
Travel plaza enterprise	511,411	170,000	0	1,053	168,947
Travel plaza	0	1,653,000	0	163,829	1,489,171
Tribal agriculture program	39,404	39,309	0	16,548	22,761
Lighthorse services	378,030	544,681	0	425,319	119,362
Construction company	8,970	5,250	0	30,140	(24,890)
Communication revolving fu	1,444	2,045	0	2,692	(647)
MCN flags, etc.	3,226	3,200	0	0	3,200
Roads equipment pool	296,006	270,000	0	81,317	188,683
MCN employee benefits	27,368	0	0	5,124	(5,124)
Investment trust	753,695	0	0	1,036,963	(1,036,963)
MCN taxes and fringe	0	0	0	(207,117)	207,117
Nonexpendable trust	68	0	0	0	0
Tribal real prop. and facilitie	791,874	837,421	0	798,614	38,807
Tribal property and supply	110,985	197,613	0	175,276	22,337
CN foundation scholarship	4,724	0	0	1,490	(1,490)
Festival committee	59,777	75,086	0	72,095	2,990
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>24,297,596</b>	<b>32,610,384</b>	<b>(77)</b>	<b>22,133,859</b>	<b>10,476,602</b>

**Editor's note:** This report first appeared in the February edition. Some data was lost during the file transfer process, creating entries with - numbers and altering column totals. The corrected version appears on this page with values rounded to the nearest dollar.

## Treasury report narrative

prepared by the controller's office  
Jan. 20, 1997

In accordance with National Council Act 88-70, section 112, as amended by NCA 89-37, the following information for the period ending Sept. 30, 1996 discloses the **receipts, budget, encumbrances, expenditures, and unencumbrances** for all funds under the control of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The receipts are dollar amounts received for Fiscal Year 1996. The figures include, but are not limited to federal dollars received on a grant or contract, interest earned during the quarter, and revenues generated by the tribe. The total dollars spent represent the amount spent to date for the four quarters ending Sept. 30. The **budget** figure represents the amounts approved as of Sept. 30 in the annual comprehensive budget. The **encumbered** amounts include figures derived from outstanding purchase orders at the end of the quarter. **Expended** amounts state the total amount that has been spent for each department, within that fund. The **unencumbered** figures reflect the net available for each department at the end of Sept. 30. Any questions regarding this report may be directed to the office of the controller at (918) 756-8700, ext. 250.

# Muscogee (Creek) Nation

## Quarterly financial statement

quarter ending Dec. 31, 1996 (All numbers rounded to nearest dollar.)

Program name	Receipts	Budget	Encumbered	Expended	Unencumbered
ICUSA	1,705	156,773	3,224	66,083	87,466
MCN legal defense fund	1,340	0	0	0	0
Treasury	5,397	23,950	0	23,950	0
Litigation and lobbying	2,928	0	0	0	0
General taxes and licenses	22,127	447,313	1,466	242,638	203,209
Administration-indirect	209,951	524,037	1,013	362,786	160,238
Consumer loans	5,641	0	0	(46,264)	46,264
Creek Nation bingo	216,152	822,893	1,247	561,901	259,745
MCN permanent fund	176,622	348,516	200	163,147	185,169
Tom Johnson permanent fund	8,266	0	0	0	0
Cultural preservation	128	0	0	0	0
Tribal budget	2,161	283,449	469	121,994	160,986
Tax commission	2,287	41,079	1,839	32,603	6,637
Indien home grant	16,124	665,858	51,647	52,859	561,352
Indien home program	0	1,035,000	0	0	1,035,000
Children and family services	104,125	379,731	6,491	180,033	193,208
LIHEAP '96	4,852	7,425	0	5,164	2,261
Community dev. block grant '95	76,073	1,433,047	1,044	81,594	1,350,409
Head Start project 2	233,810	1,128,147	4,295	238,782	885,070
Family preservation	29,904	148,896	0	30,797	118,099
Family violence prevention	9,281	54,635	0	10,124	44,511
LIHEAP '97	0	70,270	797	1,320	68,153
Community dev. block grant '96	1,440	1,558,059	665	1,463	1,555,930
Head Start '97	49,717	1,018,770	2,300	53,652	962,818
Title IV-B	32,014	23,301	0	32,014	(8,713)
Tribal affairs	136	0	0	0	0
Human development division	2,959	24,990	157	5,222	19,611
Archaeological investigation	2,787	16,802	0	3,317	13,485
Food distribution	43,656	282,640	628	47,588	234,424
Head Start USDA reimbursement	36,867	36,884	8,150	12,384	16,350
Eufaula dorm activity fund	647	0	0	0	0
Election board	4	4,668	0	0	4,668
Citizenship board	1,087	300	0	0	300
Revolving fund	60	0	0	0	0
Before and after school program	0	35,691	0	0	35,691
Self governance compact	4,298,490	1,377,583	34,863	839,804	502,916
Human development division	1,827	96,311	335	3,162	92,814
Eufaula dormitory	591,003	579,714	19,921	232,355	327,438
Tribal self governance	13	1,468	0	1,233	235
BIA transportation improvement	5,450	0	0	971	(971)
Self governance negotiation grant	18	0	0	0	0
Comprehensive planning	0	392	0	0	392
Tribal affairs division	127,102	246,928	0	158,442	88,485
JOM early childhood	250	0	0	0	0
JOM program	218,910	199,792	58	41,335	158,399
Transportation improvement	1,388	46,529	52	8,434	38,043
Kellyville bridge project	0	835,750	0	(700)	836,450
JOM early childhood	0	10,075	0	0	10,075
JOM	0	709,735	0	440	709,295
Employment and training	24,389	46,618	0	473	46,145
Employment and training	305,504	634,920	600	311,281	323,039
Head Start '96	15,948	39,560	0	15,948	23,612
Children's justice program	8,864	57,138	0	9,595	47,542
Community centers program	39,612	796,259	195,620	45,784	554,855
Community services building	19,936	0	0	0	0
Travel plaza enterprises	60,435	168,947	683	27,476	140,787
Travel plaza	0	1,498,671	373,214	318,932	806,525
Tribal agriculture program	4,103	22,761	0	1,973	20,788
Lighthorse admin. services	130	135,627	0	96,233	39,395
Communications revolving fund	163	0	0	0	0
MCN flags, etc.	41	0	0	0	0
Roads equipment pool	115,098	188,683	8,349	21,382	158,953
Motor vehicle	101,646	101,551	19,093	1,112	81,346
Tribal real property and facilities	22,335	208,521	1,235	127,194	80,092
Tribal property and supply	8,249	49,209	14,073	37,680	(2,545)
MCN foundation scholarship	1,008	0	0	115	(115)
Festival committee	369	4,000	0	802	3,199
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7,272,525</b>	<b>18,629,863</b>	<b>753,728</b>	<b>4,586,607</b>	<b>13,289,529</b>

## Treasury report narrative

In accordance with National Council Act 88-70, section 112, as amended by NCA 89-37, the following information for the period ending Dec. 31, 1996 discloses the receipts, budget, encumbrances, expenditures, and unencumbrances for all funds under the control of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The receipts are dollar amounts received for Fiscal Year 1996. The figures include but are not limited to federal dollars received on a grant or contract, interest earned during the quarter, and revenues generated by the tribe. The total dollars spent represent the amount spent to date for the four quarters ending Sept. 30. The budget figure represents the amounts approved as of Sept. 30, in the annual comprehensive budget. The encumbered amounts include figures derived from outstanding purchase orders at the end of the quarter. Expended amounts state the total amount that has been spent for each department, within that fund. The unencumbered figures reflect the net available for each department at the end of Sept. 30. Any questions regarding this report may be directed to the office of the controller at (918) 756-8700, ext. 250.



# The Muscogee Nation News

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April 1997, 12 pages

## Tribal tax commission clarifies motor vehicle registration procedures

OKMULGEE — With the Muscogee Nation's recent implementation of motor vehicle registration are several issues related to sovereignty, tribal and state relations, social, and others.

Muscogee Nation Tax Commissioner Mike Factor has provided the following information for greater understanding of the nature of tribal taxation and the issues of motor vehicle registration.

### Tribal authority to tax

The Muscogee Nation, as well as other tribes, are given their authority to tax by the U.S. Congress. This authority has been sustained by the U.S. Supreme Court. From the case *Washington v. Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation*, (1980) comes the following:

A 1934 Opinion of the Solicitor of the Department of Interior reads, "Chief among the powers of sovereignty recognized as pertaining to an Indian Tribe is the power of taxation. Except where Congress has provided otherwise, this power may be exercised over members of the tribe and over nonmembers, so far as such nonmembers may accept privileges of trade, residence, etc. To which taxes may be attached as conditions. [emphasis added].

The power to tax transactions [with non-Indians] occurring on trust lands and significantly involving a Tribe or its members is a fundamental attribute of sovereignty which the Tribes retain unless divested of it by federal law or necessary implication of their dependent status."

### Indian-owned vehicles and the state

Again, in an opinion issued by the U.S. Supreme Court, in the case of *Oklahoma Tax Commission v. Sac and Fox Nation*, decided May 17, 1993, the restriction against past taxation was established.

The U.S. Supreme Court based its ruling on *Moe v. Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes*, the state's vehicle taxes were flatly prohibited. Oklahoma cannot impose any back taxes when citizens sell or trade vehicles with a Muscogee Nation license tag.

The state issued instructions to local tag agents in light of the above cited court decisions, to recognize tags of the other 49 states.

They have imposed an additional requirement for Indians. When a tribal member sells or trades a vehicle with a tribal tag and tribal registration, an original or certified copy of the owner's certificate degree of Indian blood (CDIB), or tribal enrollment card or certificate.

This differs from the treatment of vehicle owners from other states, as they are not required to prove they are citizens of another state. It is, in essence, legislated discrimination.

The Muscogee Nation Citizenship Board has designed a document which meets the above criteria. There is no blood quantum or enrollment number, reducing the chance of forgeries or other misuse.

### Out-of-state travel

There have been unsubstantiated reports of harassment and other indignities imposed on tribal



members travelling out of state in a vehicle registered with the tribe.

Every state should recognize tribal licenses tags as a foreign tag, however because of the newness of tags and unfamiliarity with this right and process one might be stopped.

It is advised to keep vehicle registration and a copy of tribal enrollment in the vehicle at all times.

"If you are stopped for license plate jurisdiction, please have the law enforcement officials to call the lighthouse department to verify registration," Factor said. "If problems persist, contact the tribal attorney general."

This does not exempt the owner from adherence to applicable laws of motor vehicle operation.

The owner and the vehicle are subject to all laws of the jurisdiction in which you are driving and your

please see TAGS..., page 3

## Young Creek women sought for Miss Mvskoke Nation

OKMULGEE — The Miss Mvskoke Nation pageant has extended its boundary requirement to include young Muscogee ladies living throughout the state of Oklahoma. The pageant will kickoff the 23rd Annual Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo on Thurs., June 19.

### Judging

The MMNC committee is currently planning for the event and is encouraging interested, young, Muscogee ladies to apply. Contestants will be judged on performance in the following six categories: essay; interview; poise and personality; traditional dress; talent; and impromptu question.

### Orientation and interview

The interview category questions

will be based on information obtained at an orientation on tribal government and culture. The orientation will be held from 9 to 11 a.m., June 14 in the independent agencies (mound) auditorium at the tribal capitol complex, U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56.

Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to noon. The interview category will consist of individual contestant questioning by five judges to be held from 1 to 4 p.m. A walk-through practice will be held from 4 to 7 p.m.

### Pageant

The auditorium will be available for contestant use on the day of the pageant. The pageant will begin at 7 p.m., June 19. A reception will be held for Miss Mvskoke Nation 1997-98 follow-

ing the pageant.

### Requirements

Applicants must:

- be at least one-quarter blood, enrolled Muscogee;
- be between the ages of 16 and 21 on the date of the pageant;
- never married or have a child;
- not cohabit before or during reign;
- live within the state of Oklahoma;
- submit three letters of recommendation;
- submit a 500-word essay on why they are seeking the title; and
- attend the orientation workshop on Muscogee government and culture.

### Application

Applications may be obtained from committee chair Rita Williams at Muscogee Nation Head Start. She may also be contacted by calling 1 (800) 482-1979, ext. 337 or (918) 756-8700, ext. 337 or writing: Attn. Miss Mvskoke Nation Committee, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Applications must be postmarked by June 7.

Williams is encouraging all tribal royalty and former Muscogee Nation princesses and rodeo queens to attend the pageant. She requests that they notify her prior to the pageant date.

Additional 1997  
Festival & Rodeo  
announcements appear  
in this issue on page 10.

# Tribal election board seeks to update records

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board Office seeks to contact the following tribal members regarding voters' registration records and those tribal members with undeclared districts. Citizens are required to declare a district before voting in any tribal election.

If your name appears in the following list, contact the election board office at 1(800) 482-1979 or (918) 756-8700, exts. 350, 294 or 349.

The following are listed with their last known city and state (all Oklahomans unless otherwise indicated):

Jeremy Alford, Okmulgee  
 Michael Aquino, Hartshorne  
 Jennie Arable, Junction City, Kansas  
 Charles Bamoski, Muskogee  
 Joe Bear Jr., Henryetta  
 Larenia A. Bell, Tulsa  
 Eli H. Benally, Coweta  
 Ciaron R. Billman, Wagoner  
 Janelle R. Blevins, Okmulgee  
 Jony H. Boatman, Sand Springs  
 Dana M. Bruner, Muskogee  
 Edward T. Bruner, Okmulgee  
 Miranda L. Bruner, Checotah  
 Johnson Buck Jr., Holdenville  
 Stephanie D. Buck, Wetumka  
 Jamie R. Campbell, Konawa  
 Pamela S. Checotah, Okmulgee  
 Toni R. Cochran, Okmulgee  
 Kendra M. Cook, Sapulpa  
 Mitchell Cranke, Perry  
 Noma E. Cully, Amarillo, Texas  
 Carlos M. Cobb, Okmulgee  
 Jackson Dale, Jenks  
 Sayward Deere, Tulsa  
 Shalyn Donley, Winfield, Kansas  
 Jamie Edmondson, Okmulgee  
 Julie Ellis, Oklahoma City  
 Manka Fernandes, Tulsa  
 Trisha Fish, Checotah  
 Alexander Fixico, McLoud  
 Hillas Fontenot, Okemah  
 Dondi Fox, Sapulpa  
 Bobbie Frye, Henryetta  
 Stephanie Golden, Henryetta  
 Damon Frye, Moore  
 Wilford Gouge, Tulsa  
 Kara Kristen Green, Cushing  
 Marla Jean Griffin, Tulsa  
 Cecilia F. Grummitt, Momis  
 Dustin T. Harjo, Stillwater  
 Joshua Adams Harjo, Bellflower, California  
 Melissa K. Harjo, Holdenville  
 Tonya Marie Horton, Anchorage, Alaska  
 Jennifer D. Igney, Checotah  
 Roy David Ingram, Henryetta  
 Lora Jo Jackson, Jackson, Arkansas  
 Billie Jo Janzen, Leonard  
 Dawn Renee Johnson, Shawnee  
 Gregory Keith Johnson, Okemah  
 Rex Allen Johnson, Glenpool  
 Shanda Lee Johnson, Tulsa  
 Eagledale King, Okemah  
 Mitchell D. Kirsch, Wetumka  
 Keaton L. Kluthe, Joplin, Missouri  
 Thomas Knox, Tulsa  
 Ocie R. Lee-Smith, Weleetka  
 Ronald R. Lewis, Oklahoma City  
 Frank Lindsey, Henryetta  
 Sonya R. Lindsey, Wagoner  
 Ann M. Link, Omaha, Nebraska  
 Kylie A. Linville, Norman  
 Stacy L. Lumpkin, Holdenville  
 Jeremy D. McCarty, Norman  
 Mitchell D. McCoy, Skiatook  
 Crystal D. Mahee, Calvin  
 Rebecca L. Marley, Monmouth, Oregon  
 Montrey D. Marshall, Coweta  
 Phillip A. Martin, Kellyville  
 Chasity N. Miner, Perry  
 Aaron B. Nelson, Sapulpa  
 Dawn L. Mitchell, Oklahoma City  
 Ovante T. Moore, Coweta  
 Stephanie M. Morrow, Sapulpa  
 Tommy Osburn, Altura, Minnesota  
 Mekeion Payne, Muskogee  
 Kyle Poulter, Cleveland, Tennessee  
 Christopher Ralston, Uvalde, Texas  
 Warroll Ratliff, Oklahoma City  
 Sean Ray, White Oak, Texas  
 Jared Rensch, Kingfisher  
 Travis Robb, Mariposa, California  
 Tonya Rodebush, Drumright  
 Timothy Rogers, Bixby  
 Tina Rogers, Bristow  
 Theda Roulston, Sasakwa  
 Samuel Runkle, Enid  
 Michael Ryan, Eufaula  
 Tisha M. Scott, Oklahoma City  
 Cody R. Sears, San Angelo, Texas  
 Jeremy V. Spocogee, Moore  
 Robert Sulphur, Checotah  
 Gloria Ann Tilley, Okemah  
 Shawna Marie Tillman, Bristow  
 Bradford James Towry, Broken Arrow  
 Nancy E. Tulsa, Tulsa  
 Jeremy G. Van Straten, Okmulgee  
 Jenny M. Wade, Semi Valley, California  
 Jacqueline S. Want, Tulsa  
 Laura L. Washington, Cleveland  
 Aaron Wesley, Wetumka  
 Harold D. Williams Jr., Wewoka  
 Peggy S. Williams, Weleetka  
 William A. Wilson Jr., Broken Arrow  
 Meske Wind, Denver, Colorado  
 Charles A. Wood Jr., Monterey, California  
 Dustin M. Woods, Muskogee  
 Cheryl A. Yahola, Oklahoma City  
 Kerry L. Yahola, Wewoka  
 Terry L. Yahola, Wewoka  
 Nicole C. Yeahpau, Tulsa  
 Russell D. Sullivan, Broken Arrow  
 Luanna S. Beminger, New Caney, Texas  
 Harold Berryhill, Corsicana, Texas  
 Debra L. Bias, Marietta, Texas  
 David M. Bland, Graham, Texas  
 Ura M. Brown, Choctaw  
 Dennis H. Burros, Tonkawa  
 Jerry K. Cheek, Plano, Texas

Charles A. Candela, Stroud  
 Dollies A. Etchinson, Adair  
 Janice R. Floch, Tecumseh  
 Billy R. Harley, Oklahoma City  
 Brenda D. Isham, Oklahoma City  
 Patricia Lay, Oklahoma City  
 James S. Morgan, Indiana, Pennsylvania  
 Thomas Osburn, Kansas (Oklahoma)  
 Samuel Powell, Wewoka  
 Russell D. Sullivan, Broken Bow  
 Toney J. Self, Seminole  
 Fanny Showalter, Apple Valley, California  
 Stevens M. Sons, Fresno, California  
 Minnie L. Tadlock, Davis  
 Barbara A. Vinyard, Midwest City  
 Frank W. Walker, Arlington, Texas  
 Clara M. Wilson, Merkel, Texas  
 Michael L. Wright, Sarasota, Florida  
 Vernon L. Wright, Sarasota, Florida  
 Melissa J. Belt, Tulsa  
 Kevin McCarty, Norman  
 Valencia K. Watashe, Tulsa

Letters to the editor will return next month.

## The Muscogee Nation News

**The Muscogee Nation News** is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to **The Muscogee Nation News**, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in **The Muscogee Nation News**, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of **The Muscogee Nation News**, its editors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the third Friday of every month. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

**The Muscogee Nation News** is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

James Wolfe, managing editor  
 Stephanie Berryhill, senior staff writer  
 Summer Barnes, secretary

# National Council supplements vision program and others at March session

**OKMULGEE** — The Muscogee (Creek) National Council considered several supplemental appropriations at its March regular session.

Among the programs receiving the additional funding was the tribal vision program. The Council took \$12,000 from the Docket 275 and Interest on the Permanent Fund accounts for the program (see related article, page 4).

The vote for the bill (National Council Act 97-32) was unanimous (24-0). Voting yes were (representatives listed in alphabetical order, followed by district):

**Richard Berryhill, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; Steve Bruner, Tulsa; Johnson Buck, Tukvptce; Helen Chupco, Muskogee; Irene Cleghorn, Tulsa; Ron Cleghorn, Tulsa; A.D. Ellis, Okmulgee; Barbara Gillespie, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; Anderson Hale, Okmulgee; Clyde Johnson, Okfuskee; Jesse Kelley, Tulsa; Dave Lewis, Okmulgee; Harley Little, Muskogee; Dwayne Lowe, Tukvptce; Abe McIntosh, Okmulgee; Thomas McIntosh, McIntosh; David Nichols, Okmulgee; Tom Pickering, McIntosh; Bruce Smith, Okfuskee; George Tiger, Creek; Phyllis Warrington, Creek; Nancy Watson, Okfuskee; Earl Wheeler, Creek; and Thomas Yahola, Tukvptce.**

Larry Bible, Tulsa had left the meeting at this time and did not vote. Speaker Wilbur Gouge conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In other business, the Council:

- approved (19-6) an appropriation of \$2,550 from the interest on the permanent fund for construction of bathroom and shower facilities at Tallahassee Ceremonial Ground. Voting for NCA 97-23 were: **Berryhill, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; Bible, Tulsa; Bruner, Tulsa; I. Cleghorn, Tulsa; R. Cleghorn, Tulsa; Ellis, Okmulgee; Gillespie, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; Hale, Okmulgee; Johnson, Okfuskee; Kelley, Tulsa; Lewis, Okmulgee; Little, Muskogee; Lowe, Tukvptce; A. McIntosh, Okmulgee; T. McIntosh, McIntosh; Pickering, McIntosh; Smith, Okfuskee; Tiger, Creek; and Wheeler, Creek.**

Voting no were: **Buck, Tukvptce; Chupco, Muskogee; Nichols, Okmulgee; Warrington, Creek;**

**Watson, Okfuskee; and Yahola, Tukvptce;**

- approved (22-3) an amendment to NCA 95-87, clarifying the minimum financial management standards for tribal communities, particularly regarding nepotism.

Voting for NCA 97-25 were: **Bible, Tulsa; Bruner, Tulsa; Buck, Tukvptce; Chupco, Muskogee; I. Cleghorn, Tulsa; R. Cleghorn, Tulsa; Ellis, Okmulgee; Gillespie, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; Hale, Okmulgee; Johnson, Okfuskee; Kelley, Tulsa; Lewis, Okmulgee; Little, Muskogee; Lowe, Tukvptce; A. McIntosh, Okmulgee; Nichols, Okmulgee; Smith, Okfuskee; Tiger, Creek; Warrington, Creek; Watson, Okfuskee; Wheeler, Creek; and Yahola, Tukvptce.**

Voting no were: **Berryhill, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; T. McIntosh, McIntosh; Pickering, McIntosh;**

- rejected (11-14) an amendment to NCA 96-55 that would have made the Tulsa Creek Indian Community as the sponsor for the Council Oak Ceremony with the City of Tulsa. Voting for NCA 97-26 were: **Berryhill, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; Bible, Tulsa; Buck, Tukvptce; I. Cleghorn, Tulsa; R. Cleghorn, Tulsa; Lowe, Tukvptce; Pickering, McIntosh; Smith, Okfuskee; Tiger, Creek; and Wheeler, Creek.**

Voting no were: **Bruner, Tulsa; Chupco, Muskogee; Ellis, Okmulgee; Gillespie, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; Hale, Okmulgee; Johnson, Okfuskee; Lewis, Okmulgee; Little, Muskogee; A. McIntosh, Okmulgee; T. McIntosh, McIntosh; Nichols, Okmulgee; Warrington, Creek; Watson, Tukvptce; and Yahola, Tukvptce;**

- approved unanimously (25-0) a bill adopting an official alphabet for the Muscogee Nation. The alphabet to be used is the one developed and adopted at the Old Agency in 1853;

- approved (21-4) an appropriation to the Northeast District of the United Methodist Church. The \$1,000 was taken from the interest on the permanent fund account. Voting no were: **I. Cleghorn, Tulsa; Nichols, Okmulgee; Warrington, Creek; and Watson, Okfuskee; Tiger, Creek; and Wheeler, Creek;**

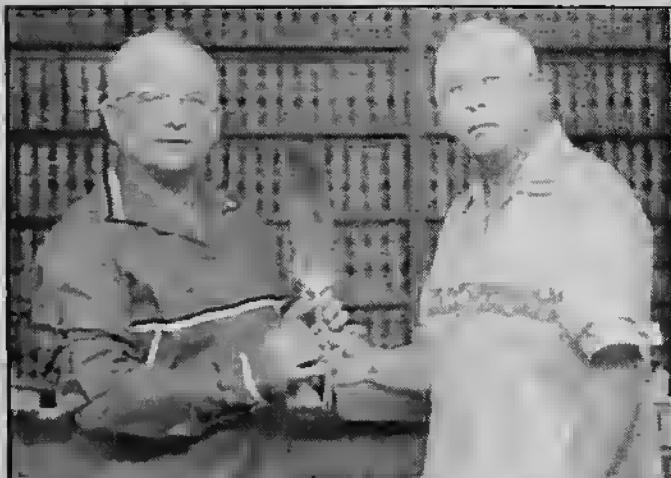


photo by Stephanie Berryhill

Muscogee National Council Okmulgee District Representative Dave Lewis, right, presented tribal district court judge Patrick Moore with an eagle feather to commemorate Moore's assistance in a ritual blessing at the Creek Council House in Okmulgee. Lewis, a practicing *heleshiyv*, said Moore had acted as a firekeeper for the blessing.

- approved unanimously (25-0) an appropriation to the elderly nutrition program. The \$4,000 will be taken from Docket 275 and will be used to defray the office space rental expense;

- approved (18-7) an amendment to NCA 92-109 to clarify funding and organizational placement of facilities management consistent with tribal policy for physical plant maintenance and capital improvement.

Voting for NCA 97-30 were: **Bible, Tulsa; Bruner, Tulsa; Buck, Tukvptce; I. Cleghorn, Tulsa; Ellis, Okmulgee; Hale, Okmulgee; Johnson, Tukvptce; Kelley, Tulsa; Lewis, Okmulgee; Lowe, Tukvptce; A. McIntosh, McIntosh; T. McIntosh, McIntosh; Pickering, McIntosh; Smith, Okfuskee; Tiger, Creek; Warrington, Creek; Watson, Okfuskee; and Yahola, Tukvptce.**

Voting no were: **Berryhill, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; Chupco, Muskogee; R. Cleghorn, Tulsa; Gillespie, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; Little, Muskogee; Nichols, Okmulgee; and Wheeler, Creek;**

- approved unanimously (25-0) an appropriation of \$21,822 to pay the insurance premiums on facilities used by the chartered communities. The money will be taken from the interest on the permanent fund account;

- approved unanimously (23-0) an amendment to please see COUNCIL..., page 10

## Tribal tags

continued from page 1

vehicle be it tribal, state, county, or city. In Oklahoma, use of a public road gives the state implied consent. The tribal license tag does not exempt anyone from any laws, and law enforcement officials may cite for traffic violations.

### Title surrender

When the state title has been surrendered, a new title and registration under the jurisdiction of the Muscogee Nation will be issued.

The new title will have all of the information presently included in the state title, except the vehicle is now registered under the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tag system instead of the state system.

The state does the same when registering a vehicle with them that has been registered and tagged in another state.

There are eligibility and other requirements to be met before the tribe issues a license tag.

One must be an enrolled member (verified by citizenship card) of the Muscogee Nation and live within the jurisdictional constitutional boundaries as defined in the 1979 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution.

The owner will have to pay the full cost of a license tag since the tribe does not subsidize these costs. The cost of the license tag is based upon the factory delivered price of the vehicle and the number of years it has been registered.

A federal court ruling prevents Oklahoma from charging back taxes on vehicles registered by tribal governments when a subsequent owner seeks to obtain an Oklahoma title. As part of the ruling, the Court limited tribal motor vehicle registration exclusively to their respective tribal members.

This is not to be confused with vehicles owned by

tribal governments that have an Oklahoma title showing sole ownership in the name of the federally recognized tribe. Vehicles owned by tribal governments may be issued an Indian tribal license plate and are excise tax exempt. [See Indian Tribal License Plates, Chapter 3 and Other Excise Exempt Situations, Chapter 4.]

Other state regulations are listed in Oklahoma Tax Commission Operating Manual for Motor Licensing Agents.

The Muscogee Nation processes motor vehicle registration at its office in the independent agencies (mound) building at the tribal capitol complex, U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56.

The office is open from 9 a.m. to noon, and 1 to 4 p.m. The telephone numbers for the tax commission, attorney general, and lighthorse administration are: (918) 756-8700; and within Oklahoma, 1 (800) 482-1979, exts. 315, 301, and 444 respectively.

## Health services

### Community health reps to attend training

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation Community Health Representative (CHR) program staff will attend the national triennial education conference in Tulsa April 28 through May 1. The CHR office in Okmulgee will be closed during these dates. The conference is held every three years and provides an opportunity for representatives to receive continuing education and network. Its office at the Oakdale Facility, just south of Okmulgee, will open at its regular time May 2.

### CHR program to open additional office

OKEMAH — Muscogee Nation Community Health Representative program is making changes to become more accessible to a greater number of tribal communities. Among the changes are relocation of program staff serving Hughes, Okfuskee, and southern Okmulgee districts to Creek Nation Community Hospital on May 5.

Clients residing in these service areas may call the tribal hospital at (918) 623-1424, or toll free at 1 (888) 623-4397 to request services or more information. Walk-in requests can be made at the Okemah CHR office, to be located in the former behavioral health wing at the hospital.

Those requesting services residing in other areas may call the Okmulgee office at (918) 756-1941 or toll free at 1 (800) 398-5379.

### Tribal vision program guidelines set

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation Community Health Representatives program will begin taking requests for assistance for the tribal vision program May 5. Requests will be taken by telephone only at (918) 756-1941 or toll free at 1 (800) 398-5379.

## Health care education-water, sewer services offered

### Emergency medical services offers CPR

OKEMAH — The Muscogee Nation Emergency Medical Services will offer cardiopulmonary resuscitation classes in its heart saver and health care provider course. The CPR classes are free; an American Heart Association card may be obtained for \$3 with the provision of a copy of the course participant's certificate degree of Indian blood (CDIB).

The EMS is offering the classes to tribal citizens. The heart saver course is a basic class that will cover children and adult CPR and relieving obstructed airways. Monthly classes are offered to the public at Creek Nation Community Hospital.

The program offers a health care provider course. The advanced level CPR class is intended for persons in the health care field. Arrangements to enroll in the class may be made through the EMS program.

The Muscogee Nation Emergency Medical Services program provides the tribe and Okfuskee county residents with emergency medical care using the latest equipment and technology; its ambulances are equipped with the most modern medical equipment available.

All EMS employees are licensed by the Oklahoma State Department of Health and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. They are certified to provide advanced cardiac life support, pedi-

After a request has been received, an application with program guidelines will be mailed. The application should be completed and returned in the postage paid envelope provided with the application.

Guidelines for the tribal vision program are proof of tribal membership and residence within the state of Oklahoma.

Assistance will be provided once per year with funds dispensed according to the following priorities:

- documented original allottees;
- school-age children (five to 18 years old) and those over 50;
- all other eligible citizens possessing a physical disability impairing vision. A medical statement documenting the impairment must be provided to the program

All others will be eligible during the last quarter of the fiscal year — July, August, and September;

Guidelines require that:

- the Muscogee Nation be payer of last resort for services provided by the vision program. Optometrists will be responsible for collecting from third party sources prior to any payment made through the program;
- applicants submit all required documentation with their completed applications through the mail prior to approval;
- walk-in applications are unacceptable;
- eligible applicants may receive up to \$150 for vision assistance with \$60 for examination and \$90 for eyeglasses. Repairs may be funded also. Contact lenses are allowable if required medically, although not for cosmetic purposes; and
- approval of applications is dependent upon the availability of funds.

Requests for program applications can be made beginning May 5 through the CHR program at (918) 756-1941 or toll free 1 (800) 398-5379.

## Indian health offers water, sewer service

OKMULGEE — Indian Health Service, Office of Environmental Health offers programs to install water and sewer facilities to qualified Indian homeowners. Funding and construction of sanitation facilities such as: wells; water service lines; septic tanks; drainfields; wastewater lagoons; and sewer service lines.

Minimum eligibility requirements include:

- property must be located within the local IHS service unit;
- applicant must be a member of a federally recognized tribe, band, or group;
- property owner must possess a certificate degree of Indian blood; and
- if renting, a lease agreement for a minimum of five years must be obtained as well as a copy of the landowners deed or title.

Documentation of tribal affiliation and home ownership of long-term lease will be required with the application for service. Mobile homes must be tied

### Muskogee office holds royalty owners meet

HENRYETTA — The Bureau of Indian Affairs Muskogee Area Office will sponsor an oil and gas conference for Muscogee (Creek) mineral owners beginning at 9:30 a.m., April 16 at the Guest House Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn) at Henryetta.

The conference is designed to create a greater awareness of the administration and monitoring of oil and gas royalties.

Royalty owners experiencing problems with payments or leasing matters will have the opportunity to discuss these issues during the morning session of the conference. Royalty owners are asked to bring relevant documents such as lease copies, payment stubs, division orders, etc., to allow the staff to review and facilitate assistance. Representatives from the minerals management service, bureau of land management, and individual Indian monies staffs will be present during the morning session.

Representatives from the BIA Muskogee Area Office, BIA Okmulgee Agency, Muscogee Nation realty and trust, Tulsa field solicitor, and others will be available for questions during the afternoon session.

For more information contact, Charles Robertson at 1 (800) 238-1943 or (918) 687-2324.



photo by Stephanie Berryhill

Muscogee Nation Children and Family Services Summer Youth Gathering has received a grant from Running Strong for American Indian Youth. It will defer expenses of hosting the conference. Ethen Bigpond, CFS child protection worker, left, presented the check on behalf of Running Strong to conference coordinator Lene Marshall, CFS adult and youth education worker.

down, skirted, and wheels removed prior to service. Mutual help homes must be paid off to qualify for service. Services are dependent upon the availability of funding. For more information, contact Billy Porter at: (918) 756-8571; or at the Okmulgee field office at the tribal capitol complex, U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56.

### Employee elected to education office

OKMULGEE — Muscogee Nation Higher Education and Scholarship Officer Channena Davis has been elected vice-president of the Oklahoma Indian Higher Education Scholarship Administration Association for 1997.

The organization is committed to the promotion of unity among Indians for the pursuit of higher education, including enrollment. Davis, a tribal member from Hanna, administers the BIA Scholarship Program for the tribe. Davis has been the higher education and scholarship officer since 1989.

# Minnie Myers Carlton



story and above photo  
by Stephanie Berryhill

**A**lthough *Tulofv Mucvse* Church member Betsey Berryhill had eloped with a non-Indian man of the Catholic faith — she was staunch in imposing her beliefs about marriage upon her seven children.

Betsey Berryhill Myers was convinced that her children should never leave her home — certainly not to marry and homestead with white people. She, herself, had known the difficulties of a mixed marriage. After she “ran off” with W.F. Myers, her family — notably her mother, Peggy Anderson Berryhill — refused to acknowledge the union.

“That was just taboo back then. They just practically disowned her because she married a white man,” said Betsey’s granddaughter, Mary Brady.

So Betsey kept her children secluded to her Bald Hill area allotment [“Bryan Township”], participating in neither Indian or non-Indian church or community activities.

As Betsey and W.F. bore more children, her mother eventually came around.

“Grandpa did eventually take her back and let her visit. He would [have] before, but they just didn’t want him around,” Mary said.

Betsey’s second child, Jefferson, was the only one of her children that was taught the Mvskoke language. W.F. learned the language and conversed in his wife’s native tongue when in-laws made infrequent visits.

“One time aunt Effa [Berryhill Miller] came to visit. I was surprised; he could

talk pretty good,” Minnie said.

Minnie Lottie Myers was born August 30, 1896 just west of her mother’s allotment. She was born in a dugout and spent the first several years of her life in the primitive dwelling.

Minnie explained that the walls were built-up with logs. The top of the structure was made of split logs which were covered with dirt; the earth served as its flooring also.



Minnie at age 20; photo taken in an Okmulgee studio.

“You couldn’t find a log now if you wanted one; you can’t find a tree big enough for a log now.”

From a contemporary perspective, Minnie’s childhood responsibilities seem

please see **ALLOTTEE...**, page 12

*Snapshots from the Family Photo Album*

# Artist's work makes connection with those that have gone before us

It has been nearly a decade since Muscogee tribal citizen Bobby C. Martin opened a box of family photographs that made a paramount impact on his life.

Before he probably realized it, initial curiosity turned into a drive just short of obsession. Initially bent on preserving his finds, Martin scanned his grandmother's old Deep Fork Hillabee church, Dwight Mission, and fam-

"These images, drawn mainly from old family albums, serve as personal icons, connections to a cultural legacy that I continue to discover. Through the filter of distance, my art looks back to see forward, documenting the struggle to draw these distant images closer, literally and spiritually, to both the artist and the viewer," reads his artist's statement.

Martin works in several mediums, including acrylics, pastels and pencil. His work is not exclusively based on old photos, although they do provide inspiration upon which he creates original work — sometimes combining or altering images taken from personal photos, resources, and American Indian symbolism.

He considers himself to be a printmaker primarily. Martin creates small editions of works using various printing techniques including: etchings; lithographs; mixed media works incorporating etched and aquatinted plates, lithographic photo transfers, and monotypes.

Martin believes most people can relate to his artwork because viewing it brings to memory images in old family photo albums. "Everybody has these photographs — that's what's neat about them; anyone can relate to them regardless of whether they're Indian or non-Indian. It's about the past and where we come from."

Now categorized with the likes of Woody Crumbo and Acee BlueEagle, he is the first appointed artist-in-residence at Gilcrease Museum since Willard Stone.

Martin has a bachelor of arts degree from Northeastern State University with a double major in fine arts and Indian studies. He received a master of fine arts de-



photo by Stephanie Berryhill

Martin with citizens Pauline Billy, left, and Susie Monday, right. A picture including the two ladies was a source photo for some of his work. They attended his showing, "Spirits from the Family Photo Album," at the Walter Arts Center at Holland Hall, Tulsa, in February.

ily photographs into his computer.

The Kecopatokv Tribal Town member was always aware of his Mvskokvlke heritage, though he had not been raised in a Mvskoke community or around the language and traditions. "Digging through the old photographs was like opening up a new world. I was really [culturally] ignorant, but I was not ignorant about my family history," Martin said at an American Indian Heritage Center-sponsored lecture last year.

After the photos had been preserved, Martin would not put them away. He began creating artwork based on the photographs — some of them in larger-than-life sizes.

"These works explore the rich cultural textures of Native American life as I have personally experienced them — primarily from a distance.

**What:** Martin art exhibition  
**When:** reception, noon to 4 p.m., April 26; exhibit will hang through May 16  
**Where:** Muscogee Nation Okmulgee Elderly Nutrition Center, tribal complex, U.S. Highway 75 & loop 56  
**Sponsors:** Muscogee Nation Judicial Branch and communications department

*This was our class room*

Dwight Mission classroom; the classroom building was built in 1917, near Marble City. Original photo by artist.



A fine-looking bunch of women

Deep Fork Hillabee campgrounds, around the mid 1940s. Front row, left to right: Leona Fox; Dora Childers; Kogee July; back row, left to right: name unknown; Mabel Herron; name unknown; and Etta Bear.





DITS  
lawn tennis team

Circa 1917,  
names unknown.



Dwight Mission Industrial  
[Indian] Training School  
basketball team

Circa 1917, names unknown.

Uncle David Herron,  
killed in action in the Pacific, 1944

Photo taken on the back porch of the  
Herron homeplace,  
Onapa, around 1943.  
David Herron died on Feb. 14, 1944.



Uncle Frank and Ola Mae

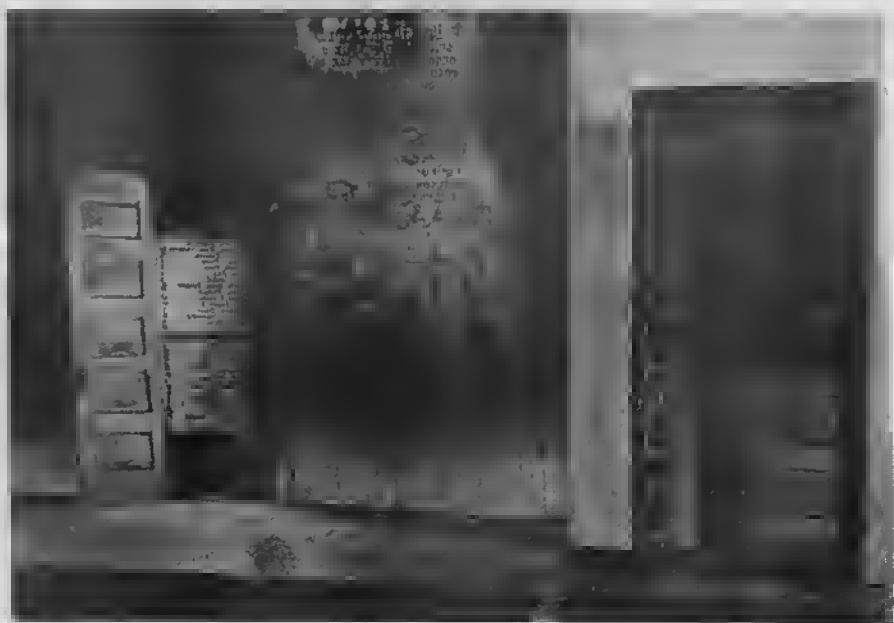
Ola Mae and Frank Herron, spring 1955, location unknown.

We cooked the meals for  
all the visitors

Same as "A fine-looking  
bunch of women."

We held our Christmas plays  
here

DITS auditorium, on the third floor of  
the classroom building. Original  
photo by the artist.



## Student review

### Citizen completing fellowship in Montana

BILLINGS, Mont. — Audiologist Kristin M. Bruner is currently completing a clinical fellowship with the Indian Health Service, Billings Area Office Ear, Nose, and Throat-Audiology Clinic.

The ENT-Audiology Clinic serves the Crow and Northern Cheyenne tribes predominantly.

She graduated from the University of Kansas in May 1996 with a master of arts degree in audiology. She is among the first graduates from a Native American training program in KU's Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing.

Bruner received a bachelor of arts degree in psychology and special education from Northeastern State University in 1983.

Bruner was employed as an outreach family and youth services counselor for ROCMND Area Youth Services, Miami, for seven years prior to returning to school to complete her master's degree.

She was a recipient of Muscogee Nation Higher Education Scholarships.

After completing her clinical fellowship Bruner, Muscogee-Cherokee, intends to acquire employment with an IHS facility in Oklahoma.

Bruner is the daughter of Richard and Betty Bruner of Claremore.

Her grandparents are: the late Dick Bruner, Yeager community, and Lizzie Leader, Holdenville; and the late Walter and Lizzie Keener, Tahlequah.

### Citizen accepted to national honor society

CARROLLTON, Texas — Tribal citizen Amanda Burley has been inducted into the National Junior Honor Society.

Qualifications for membership are a 4.0 grade point average for the semester, excellent behavior, the display of leadership abilities, and courteousness to fellow students and faculty.

She is the daughter of Jim and Hattie Burley of Carrollton.

Burley is the maternal granddaughter of Shine and Anna Miller.

### Citizen selected "airman of the year"

OKLAHOMA CITY — Shrea B. Lopez of Shawnee has been selected as "airman of the year" for the 205th Engineering Installation Squadron.

She is a radar technician for the Air National Guard and serves at the Will Rogers National



Bruner

### Guard Base.

Lopez is a nursing program student at Seminole State College.

The 21-year-old is the daughter of Bob and Delores Lopez.

She is the maternal granddaughter of Daniel and the late Wanda Jean Wind of Okemah and the paternal granddaughter of Margaret Rader of San Diego, Calif.

### Student receives coaches' award

MESCALERO, N.M. — Mescalero High School freshman Jessica Kiah St. John received the coaches' award in basketball at the annual athletic banquet Feb. 20.

St. John was one of four freshman on the Lady Chiefs' basketball team. The team had a record of 15-1, with two tournament championships for their 1996-97 season.

She is the daughter of Albert and Phyllis Chupco Platta of Mescalero.

St. John is the maternal granddaughter of Amos and Lucille Chupco of Seminole and the paternal granddaughter of Charles and Joyce St. John of Vian.

### Senior wins district VFW speech contest

HENRYETTA — Graham senior Leann Thompson was the local and district winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy speech contest.

Thompson's speech placed 10th in the state. It marks her second year to win the local contest sponsored by VFW Post 539. She has earned \$600 in award monies for her effort.

She is active in 4-H, is a "Life Leader," and was student of the month for September.

Thompson is the daughter of George and Nora Thompson of Yardeka.

### Science consortium academy to be held

STILLWATER — Oklahoma State University will be conducting a four-week residential enrichment program for Native American eighth and ninth-grade students sponsored by the American Indian Science Technology Education Consortium.

The program offers exposure to mathematics and statistics. Students will spend two weeks participating in laboratory projects in chemistry and two weeks in laboratory and field studies in biological sciences. The camp will be held from June 1 through 27.

Eligibility requirements require participants be in the eighth or ninth grades and be able to document Native American heritage. Admission requirements will include: a review of students' academic preparation; previous activities in science and mathematics; letters of recommendation; and an essay titled "My Future in Science As I See It."

The deadline for applications is April 18th. Late



Burley



Lopez

applications will be considered if space is available.

To receive an application or further information write: Dr. William D. Warde, AISTEC Summer Academy, Department of Statistics, 301 Math Sciences, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078-1056; or call, (405) 744-5684.

### Harvard Schedules graduation activities

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Harvard University Native American Program has scheduled a powwow and a dedication ceremony commemorating the education of American Indians at Harvard in the 17th century.

The powwow — featuring the Young Blood Singers as host drum and a reading by Standing Rock Sioux author Susan Power — will take place in Harvard Yard from noon to 5 p.m., May 3rd.

The powwow kicks off with the dedication of a Native American plaque to be placed on Matthews Hall in Harvard Yard permanently. The plaque dedication ceremony will begin at 9:30 a.m. in front of Matthews Hall.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call the program at: (617) 495-4923.

### Haskell announces commencement

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Haskell Indian Nations University spring commencement activities and powwow will be held May 9, 10, and 11.

Graduation ceremonies will be held at 10 a.m., May 9th at the Coffin Sports Complex. The university will be recognize the awarding of associates' degrees and baccalaureate degrees to its first teacher education graduates.

For more information, contact Darryl Monteau at (913) 749-8417.

The Third Annual HINU All-Indian Men's Fastpitch Softball Tournament will be held May 10 and 11 at Lyons Park.

Awards: first, 15 team jackets; second, 15 t-shirts; third, team trophy; fourth, sportsman trophy.

A \$125 entry fee is due by April 18th. The fee may be mailed to: Softball Committee, Haskell Powwow Committee, 155 Indian Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66046-4800.

For more tournament information, call: Andy Girty, (913) 842-5099; Jim LeFlore, (913) 842-3761; or Robbie Berryhill, (913) 841-1292.

### OU schedules drug education conference

SPOKANE, Wa. — "Empowering Our People Through the Spirit of the Circle" is the theme of the University of Oklahoma's Eighth National Native American Conference on Inhalants, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs scheduled June 22 through 24.

The conference is presented by the American Indian Institute, a department of the OU College of Continuing Education.

The registration fee is \$195 per person until May 1. On-site and late registration cost is \$250.

For more information, call the American Indian Institute at (405) 325-4127.

## Arrivals and birthdays

### Katherine Wolfe

OKLAHOMA CITY — Katherine MacKenzie Wolfe was born March 4 at Mercy Hospital to Muscogee citizen Jay Wolfe and his spouse, Connie, of Oklahoma City.

She weighed 9 pounds, 12 ounces and was 21 inches in length.

Wolfe is the paternal granddaughter of Jim and Noma Wolfe of Sapulpa. Maternal grandparents are Ben and Rose McWatters of Mustang.

She is the great-granddaughter of the late Rev. Bertie and Myrtle James Wolfe.



Wolfe

### Springtown elder celebrates nine decades

COWETA — Fannie Berryhill Chalakec celebrated her 90th birthday Feb. 8 with dinner held in her home.

She was born Feb. 8, 1907 in Okfuskee Country to Joseph and Hepsie Berryhill. She, with her husband — the late Rev. John Chalakee — moved to Coweta in 1948 where

Those attending the dinner held by her niece, Ruthie Crawley of Dallas, were: Richard Crawley; Joe Tiger; Leona Sullivan; and Martha Jane Reece.

A surprise birthday party was held in the evening by Springtown United Methodist Church members. Cake and ice cream and the reading of birthday cards were enjoyed by: Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Chalakee and sons' Stewart and Michael; Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Green; Sherri Walton and children, Ashley, Megan, and John John; Louvina Frank; Mr. and Mrs. Newman Frank Jr. and children, Trevor and Daila; Mr. and Mrs. Russell Replogle; and Mr. and Mrs. John Reece.

Chalakee has been an active member of Springtown United Methodist Church for many years.

Chalakee received cards, letters, and flowers from many relatives and friends.

### Glenpool girl turns three with Pooh party

GLENPOOL — Raelynn Dutchy celebrated her third birthday on March 14 with a Winnie the Pooh party theme.

Joining her in the festivities were family and friends.

She is the maternal granddaughter of Terry Dutchy of Glenpool and Dale Dutchy of Las Vegas, Nev.

Her great-grandparents are: Anna Fish of Wetumka and the late Rev. Charlie C. Fish; Caroline Gutierrez and Edgar Dutchy, both of Woodfords, Calif.



Dutchy

### Koweta Tribal Town youth celebrates fourth

OKLAHOMA CITY — Miranda Logan LeGrand celebrated her fourth birthday on Dec. 9 with a Barney theme party given by her mother, LeeAnn LeGrand.

LeGrand belongs to the Alligator Clan and Koweta Tribal Town.

She attends Shields Boulevard Head Start and enjoys playing outside and watching Disney movies.

Her maternal grandparents are Anita and Buddy Cox of Oklahoma City and Andrew and Louise Tecumseh of Okmulgee.

Her paternal grandparents are Joe and Jean LeGrand of Okmulgee.

Maternal great-grandparents are: Hepsey Ray of Joplin, Mo.; Robert Freeman of Morris; and Evelyn and the late Andy Tecumseh of Okmulgee. Paternal great-grandparents are Pearline Day and Pierre LeGrand, both of Okmulgee.

### Kellyville boy to celebrate fourth birthday

SAND SPRINGS — Joseph "Nick" Tiger will celebrate his fourth birthday April 30 with a skating party to be attended by family members.

Tiger is the son of Sherry Tiger of Kellyville.

He is the grandson of Judy Bruner of Kellyville and James Tiger of Tulsa.

Lorene Brown of Kellyville is his great-grandmother. He is the nephew of Michael Tiger of Tulsa.

Tiger belongs to Polecat Tribal Town.

### Citizen named Five Tribes "master artist"

MUSKOGEE — Tribal citizen Jimmie Carol Fife Stewart has been awarded the title of "master artist" by the Five Civilized Tribes Museum.

The Washington, Okla. resident, along with two other artists, has been awarded this title.

She works in the media of water color, acrylic, and pen and ink. Her work features portraits of historic and contemporary Mvskoke subjects.

### Metalsmith places first two years running

TULSA — Kenneth Johnson won first place in the jewelry division of the Tulsa Indian Art Festival for the second consecutive year.

Johnson won with his "Moundbuilder Sun Circle" box-pendant in February.

He credits his mother, Rowena Johnson of Albuquerque, with making his Tulsa entry possible. "I wish to publicly thank my mother for driving through a snowstorm to deliver the winning entry in time for the competition."

He received first, second, and third place at the

Dallas Indian Art Market last October with his "Indian Gucci" watch and old coin belt designs.

Johnson belongs to the Bird Clan. The 29-year-old Mvskoke-Seminole resides in Santa Fe, N.M.

He is the grandson of Lucinda Walkingstick of Oakhurst. He is the great-grandson of the late Ida Kernel Bruner, Wewoka.



Johnson

### Citizen retires from Indian Health Service

OKMULGEE — Eufaula citizen Taylor Phillips has resigned after 30 years of employment with the Indian Health Service Office of Environmental Health.

Phillips served primarily as construction inspector for water and sewer facilities installed at homes built through Creek Nation Housing Authority.

"Phillips is remarkably familiar with the Creek Nation service area and has been a great asset to the delivery of sanitation facilities. He has served under 12 project engineers, providing them with wise counsel and insight," said William McCombs OEH Eastern District sanitarian.

A reception was held for Phillips and attended by IHS and tribal staff, housing authority personnel, contractors, former IHS employees, and friends.

Phillips is a member of Tuskegee Baptist Church.



Phillips

### First Beaver Family Reunion to be held

TAHLEQUAH — The first Beaver Family Reunion will be held Aug. 16 at Cherokee Landing.

Descendents of the following are encouraged to attend: Creek and Jennie Beaver; Mohawk and Martha Beaver; Jim Beaver; and Lem Beaver.

For more information, write, P.O. Box 4, Stilwell, OK 74960, or call: Patricia Hawk, (918) 458-9523, after 9 p.m.; Joe Grayson, (918) 696-6207, after 5 p.m.; or Joanna Watie, (918) 696-3221.

### Smith Family to hold 14th annual reunion

LAMAR — The 13th Annual Smith Family reunion will begin at 10 a.m., May 24 at Middle Creek #1 Baptist Church.

Those attending are requested to bring a covered dish. For more information, call Annette Lowe at (405) 379-6752.

### 11th Wacoche Family Reunion to be held

MUSKOGEE — The 11th Annual Wacoche Family Reunion will be held at the Bacone College cafeteria from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., May 26.

Entertainment will be provided by Oakhurst Gospel Group of Tulsa.

Those attending should bring a lawn chair and covered dish. For more information, call: (913) 749-8402; or (918) 456-2874.

## Harjo work to be published in spring

NEW YORK CITY — Joy Harjo's recent literary endeavor, "Reinventing the Enemies Language: Contemporary Native Women's Writing of North America," is to be published by W.W. Norton this spring.

This Native American literature collection includes contributions of prayer, memoirs, novel excerpts, short stories, and poetry from 100 indigenous women throughout the U.S. and Canada — including Muscogee tribal citizen Helen Burgess. Women from Oklahoma's Five Tribes are represented as well. Harjo, who edited the book with fellow Institute of American Indian Art alumnus Gloria Bird, Spokane Tribe, has contributed two pieces to the 448-page hardback also.

It was to be available in early March, although Harjo said publication has been pushed back to April or May; its price is \$25.

A book of prose, "A Love Supreme," and a children's book, "The Goodluck Cat," are both scheduled to be released soon also.

Harjo presented a reading of her poetry at the Muscogee Nation Tribal Capitol Complex, March 20. The event was sponsored by Tulsa Creek Indian Community and the Muscogee Nation Communications Department.



Harjo

Bacone College held a ribbon cutting ceremony to conclude the formal dedication of the school's new Palmer Center April 2 in Muskogee.

Presiding over the ceremony was Dr. Dennis Tanner, center, Bacone president. Pictured from left are: Janet Hatch, representing the Palmer Family Foundation; Tanner; and former principal chief Bill Fife, chair of the two-year school's board of trustees.



photo by Gerald Wofford

## Council

continued from page 3

NCA 96-104 to correct language regarding the deposit of anticipated revenue from a right-of-way in Tulsa. Bible, Tulsa was absent, and Johnson, Okfuskee did not vote;

- tabled an appropriation of more than \$54,000 to complete the purchase of property in Okmulgee for the Okmulgee health clinic. Further review of the property's clouded title was the reason given for tabling the bill;

- approved unanimously (24-0) tribal resolution 97-04 giving Principal Chief Perry Beaver the author-

ity to negotiate an investment arrangement with Royal Knight Bedding, Inc. and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Manufacturing Enterprise.

**Notes:** The Council was expected to have a special session April 14 to consider the negotiation of property with the city of Tulsa regarding the expansion of the city's Riverside Drive and the current developments related to the tribal health board and its responsibility for oversight of the tribal health administration.

The Council has gone on-line. Electronic mail can be directed to: natcon@ionet.com.

## 1997 Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo announcements

### Litefoot performance

Rap performer and motion picture artist Litefoot will headline the 1997 Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo entertainment. The Red Vinyl Records act is scheduled to perform at the Muscogee Nation Omniplex, June 20.

Litefoot received favorable reviews for his performance in the film Indian in the Cupboard. He has been touring nationally after the release of his latest compact disc, Good Day to Die.

"We are very excited to have such a star to perform for the kids at this year's festival," said committee member Edwin Marshall. "In keeping with the theme 'The Nation's youth: learning from the past, leading to the future,' I feel Litefoot's music is very appropriate."

Marshall who is the tribe's deputy director of community services, said the tribal health administration was instrumental with its sponsorship of this event. The health administration will also be promoting its healthy life-styles campaign.

### Joint festivals run

The Creek Nation Festival run will be a joint affair with the Okmulgee Pecan Festival. Other changes are a new course and distance.

The event will now be 8 kilometers and will begin at 7:30 a.m., June 21. The starting line will be at the Creek Council House Museum in downtown Okmulgee. The race is being coordinated by the Glen's Racing Service and is certified by U.S. Track and

Field.

Entry fee through June 14 is \$10 and \$12 to June 21, and includes a t-shirt. Without a t-shirt, the fee is \$8. To register by mail, address correspondence to Joint Festivals Run, 1304 W. Eufaula, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

### Juried art show

Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo committee will sponsor a juried art exhibition and sale in conjunction with the Festival. The show, beginning June 19 and continuing through June 27, will include viewing of both professional and student art works.

The exhibit will open with a reception, judging, a previewing of the work June 19. The artists are expected to attend. All professional art work will be for sale.

The exhibit will include two shows: the professional juried exhibition with their works for sale; and a student juried art show. Each artist will be limited to three pieces. The top three works deemed best will be recognized as well as an honorable mention.

The three categories for judging will include:

- paintings — all media, watercolor, acrylics, charcoal, etc.;
- sculpture — wood, clay, stone, etc.; and
- textiles — basketry, weaving, etc.

All entrants must provide proof of enrollment citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Deadline for entry is May 30.

For more information contact, Sandra Peters at

(918) 756-8700, ext. 606, or 1 (800) 482-1979. Inquiries and requests for applications may also be addressed to Peters in care of Muscogee (Creek) Nation, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

### Little and junior miss pageants

Additions to the list of tribal royalty for 1997-98 will include Little Miss Myskoke (Creek) Nation and Junior Miss Myskoke (Creek) Nation.

The little miss pageant will have three divisions — one each for ages 2 to 4 years old, 5 to 7 years old, and 8 to 11 years old. The junior pageant will be for girls ages 12 to 15 years old. The pageants will begin at 7 p.m., June 16 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Independent Agencies Building Auditorium (the mound building).

Contestants must do the following to be eligible:

- provide proof of enrollment with the Muscogee Nation;
- live within Muscogee Nation boundaries;
- submit a photograph; and
- be between the ages of 2 and 15 by June 16, 1997.

Judging for the little miss contest will be based on poise and personality as well as traditional dress. Judging for the junior miss contest be based on poise and personality, traditional dress, a biographical essay (limit 100 words); and talent. Deadline for entries is May 23.

For more information, contact Yvonne Bevenue at (918) 756-8700, ext. 229 or by mail at P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

## Obituaries

### PAULINE BARNABY

**EUFALA** — Funeral services for Pauline Beatrice Barnaby were held Feb. 28 at Tuskegee Baptist Church with Rev. Allen Colbert officiating.

Song services were held Feb. 27 at the church.

She died Feb. 26. She was born to Tucker and Polly McCombs Marshall at Community 42 — Hanna on March 28, 1918.

Barnaby was a clerk for Santa Fe Trailways. She was a member of Tuskegee Baptist Church. She married Harold Barnaby in Pryor in 1965.

She was preceded in death by: her husband; her parents; six brothers, Sam, Ben, Silas, Sandy, Howard, and Joe; and two sisters, Mabel Dick and Ernestine Edwards.

She is survived by: one daughter, Betty Arlene Mayes of Henderson; a son, Charles Norman Drywater of Washington D.C.; two sisters, Leona Colbert of Eufaula and Helen Dionne of Los Angeles, Calif.; one brother, Ernest Marshall of Muskogee; a grandson, Anthony Scott Lamb; a granddaughter, Mary Ellen Stoneburger of Disney; and seven great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Sam Marshall; DeWayne Marshall; Bunny Hill; Kenneth Colbert; Rick Colbert; and Bobby Sullivan. Honorary pallbearers were: Charlie Taylor Phillips; Dan Drew; Charley Colbert; Ernest Marshall; Tom McCombs; and Perry McCombs. Burial was in Tuskegee Cemetery

### JERRI KINSEY

**SAPULPA** — Funeral services for Jerry Kinsey were held Dec. 24 at North Heights Freewill Baptist Church with Rev. Jerry Baker officiating.

Wake services were held Dec. 23 at Smith's Funeral Home.

Kinsey died Dec. 20 at Hillcrest Medical Center. She was born May 11, 1929 in Sapulpa to Wesley and LouAnna Tom Barnett.

She worked for many years at Liberty Glass and served as president for the Glass, Pottery and Plastics Allied Workers union. Up until her death, she served as chair for Sapulpa Indian Community and was a homemaker also. Kinsey was a member of the Old Rock Creek Methodist Church.

Survivors include: her husband, Norman Harjo of the home; three sons, Steve Kinsey of Kellyville, Shawn Barnett of the home, Timothy Barnett of Altus; two daughters, Pam Barnett of Glenpool, Rebecca Barnett of Tulsa; 11 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; three sisters, Mary Watashe of Kellyville, Annie Watashe of Sapulpa, and Nancy Jo Harry of Liberty Mounds; and one brother, Harrison Barnett of Sapulpa.

Pallbearers were: Paige Allen White; Eric Lee Spencer; Phillip Moore; Ted Ashley Tiger; Brian Allen Watashe; and Victor Ramon Anderson Jr. Her nephews served as honorary pallbearers. Burial was in Green Hills Memorial Garden.

### LILLIE RUMSEY

**LITTLE COWETA** — Funeral services for Lillie Morrison Rumsey were held March 1 at Little Coweta

## Religion briefs

### Wewoka holding revival, volleyball tourney

**WEWOKA** — Wewoka United Methodist Church has scheduled a revival to be held April 16, 17, and 18.

Services begin at 7 p.m. each night. The speaker will be Rev. Lynn Mims.

In other church activities:

- Wewoka UMC is holding a volleyball tournament May 31. It will have a six-person roster — three women, three men. The entry fee is \$35; deadline for entries is May 27. First and second place winners will receive t-shirts.

The church is located one mile east of Holdenville on U.S. Highway 270 and six miles north on Yeager Road. For more information, call: Denise King, (405) 379-3707; or Lucy Smith, (405) 382-3546.

### Ecumenical gathering to be held in city

**OKLAHOMA CITY** — An ecumenical gathering — "Honoring the Past: Building for the Future" — will be held April 17 through 19 at Fifth Season Hotel.

This conference is designed to benefit Native American leaders in the churches, ecumenical offices, writers of curricular and social justice materials, leaders with anti-racism portfolios and/or interreligious concerns, youth, nonnative clergy-pastoring native churches, and Native Americans that have been raised in a nonnative culture.

This gathering is being coordinated by the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, New York, N.Y. Muscogee citizen Anne Marshall is associate general secretary of the commission.

For more information call (800) 522-9458, in Oklahoma and (800) 682-0049, nationally.

### United tribes to hold all-day fund-raiser

**OKEMAH** — On April 19 United Tribes for Christ Fellowship is holding an all-day flea market, food sale, with a gospel singing in the evening.

The flea market will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; booths are available at no charge on a first-come-first-serve basis. The food sale will be held from 11:30 a.m. to midnight. Singing will be from 6 p.m. to midnight also.

All proceeds will go toward the UTCF Annual Campmeeting to be held May 27 through 31 in Anadarko.

For more information, call: (405) 677-2335.

### Heritage full gospel to hold food, yard sales

**HOLDENVILLE** — Heritage Full Gospel Tabernacle is holding Indian taco and yard sales April 26.

Baptist Church with Rev. Charles Story officiating and Brother Jim Davis assisting.

She died Feb. 26. She was born May 9, 1901 at Lenna to Hense and Nancy Atkinson Morrison. She married Pink Rumsey on Aug. 4, 1919 at Fame. She was a homemaker and a member of Little Coweta Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by: her parents; two



Rumsey

The yard sale will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Indian taco sale will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will cost \$4 and includes a drink and dessert.

The church is located at 619 W. Poplar.

### Solid Rock Baptist Church holds revival

**GLENPOOL** — Solid Rock Baptist Church is holding a revival May 2 through 4 at 1847 E. 141st St. Vern Charette is the evangelist. Van Summers is music minister. Paul Whitaker is the church pastor. The revival will begin at seven nightly. Sunday services begin at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

### Yeager Methodist holding gospel singing

**YEAGER** — Yeager United Methodist Church is holding a gospel singing at 7 p.m., May 10. The masters of ceremonies will be The Berryhills. All groups are welcome. Concessions will be available.

### Leitka family to hold annual singing

**GLENPOOL** — The Third Annual Leitka Memorial Singing will be held June 7 at Glenpool Creek Indian Community Activity Building.

Muskokee singing will begin at 2 p.m. Dinner will be held at 5 p.m. The gospel singing will start at 7 p.m. The masters of ceremonies will be the Buck Family. All groups are welcome. For more information, call: (918) 322-3385; (918) 756-2162; or (405) 273-3518.

### Many Springs schedules homecoming

**HOLDENVILLE** — The Many Springs Baptist Church Homecoming will be held June 13 through 15.

The homecoming will begin with a fellowship meeting to be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m., June 13.

Breakfast will be served on the morning of June 13 with old-time story telling following. Games are being planned for the afternoon. A hog fry supper will be held. An evening of gospel singing will feature groups that originated from the church such as: Osceola Trio; Buck Gospellers; Tribesmen; Native Gospel Trio; and Lakeside Trio.

The homecoming will conclude with Sunday morning services and a traditional Muskokee dinner.

Those wishing to make contributions to assist with expenses may send checks of money orders to: Many Springs Church, P.O. Box 895, Holdenville, OK 74838. For more information, call: Margaret Siegrist, (405) 379-2792; or Betty Jo Harjo, (405) 379-5978.

### Little Coweta Baptist Church calls a pastor

**LITTLE COWETA** — Little Coweta Baptist Church calls a pastor — Brother Richard Robertson from McAlester. Robertson was called Dec. 1.

brothers, Luke and Ernest; three sisters, Hettie Derisaw, Susie McFarland, Bessie Brightman; two children, Raymond and Ruth Rumsey; and one granddaughter, Reba Rumsey Church.

Rumsey is survived by: her husband; three children, Jack Rumsey, Louise McIntosh, both of Stidham, and Jon Rumsey, Newcastle; one sister, Bettie Derisaw of Stidham; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Steve Rumsey; Jeff Rumsey; Ray Rumsey; Mark Rumsey; Josh Rumsey; and Abe McIntosh. Honorary pallbearers were Mitch Rumsey and Dennis Vangel. Interment was in the Rumsey Family Cemetery.

## Allottee

continued from page 5

to have been a large burden for a young girl. As the eldest child, she served as surrogate mother to six siblings while her mother tended the fields and orchard. Minnie recalls that her responsibilities included housework, cooking, milking their cow, and chopping cotton also.

Minnie attended Bald Hill school and Okmulgee High School. She and her sister, Frances, attended Eufaula Boarding School for two years, an experience she recalls as unpleasant. "...too many nasty talking and mean girls!" Visits home were few, as her father had to take the girls by team to Morris. At Morris they boarded a train that took them to Eufaula. Minnie attended finishing school at Kid Key College in Sherman, Texas.

Betsey's influence upon her eldest daughter was such that Minnie did not leave her home until she was around 40 years old.

"She was mad at the rest of them because they got married and left home," recalls the 100-year-old allottee.

Her allotment, located around five miles north of Morris, had been vacant until she let Bald Hill widower Henry Carlton and his children rent the property. She had



W.F. and Betsey Berryhill Myers



Minnie and her sister, Frances Myers (Thomson)

him build a house on allotment and they were married shortly after the house was completed.

"Grandmother just threw a fit. [Grandmother] married a white man, but she didn't want her children marrying one. For a long time she wouldn't let [aunt Minnie] have her [belongings]," Mary said.

**Editor's note:** Minnie belongs to the Wind Clan and Kvncate Tribal Town. She is the granddaughter of Jefferson Berryhill. She has two nieces, Mary Brady and Shirley Kopfle, both of Okmulgee. Minnie and original enrollee Polly Miller Homma, 97, of Okmulgee, are first cousins.

Minnie retains the ownership of her allotment.

She has one sister living, Maude Nora Miller. She and Maude, the youngest of her siblings, are roommates at Rebold Manor in Okmulgee.

It is probable that Minnie is the oldest living original enrollee, although the Muscogee Nation Citizenship Board cannot verify this as it is not always notified of the occurrence of citizens' deaths.

## Obituaries

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### DORETHA VINCENT

TULSA — Funeral services for Doretha Stubbs Vincent were held March 3 at Carbondale Church of Christ with Revs. Marty Kessler, Phillip Coon, and Bobby Woodfield officiating.

Vincent died Feb. 27. She was born on Feb. 14, 1922 in Paden to Joe Martin and Effie Gretchen Powers Beaver. She was the daughter of the Raccoon Clan and Tukvptce Tribal Town.

Vincent began a career in journalism during World War II at the *Okmulgee Daily Times* and worked for Rutherford Publications for over 20 years. She received numerous awards for her *Tulsa County News* column "West of the River." She was named to "Who's Who in American Women" for 1975-76. She received many awards from organizations such as: Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary; Camp Fire Girls; Tulsa Area Safety Council; the U.S. Army; Southwest Tulsans Inc.; and Red Fork Lions. She has resided in west Tulsa since 1956.

She was preceded in death by: her parents; one sister, Elizabeth Kopfle; one grandson, John Crow IV; and her late husbands, Everett W. Stubbs and James M. Vincent.

Vincent is survived by: one brother, Joe M. Beaver of Scottsdale, Ariz.; three daughters, Barbara Goodman of Henryetta, Donna Powers and Shelly Crow, both of Tulsa; stepson and daughter, Jimmy Vincent and Peggy Yales, both of Stigler; five grandsons; one granddaughter; four great-granddaughters; and three great-grandsons.

Burial was in Floral Haven Cemetery, Veterans' Field of Honor.

Memorial donations may be sent to: John Crow IV Memorial Scholarship Fund, First National Bank of Henryetta, P.O. Box 610, Henryetta, OK 74437-0610.

### THOMAS PHILLIPS

The obituary submission received for Thomas Phillips, which was published in *The Muscogee Nation News*, March 1997, did not include his brother — Bill Phillips of Muskogee.

## Gratitude

We would like to thank everyone that attended Concharty United Methodist Church's wild onion dinner on March 22.

Your support each year is remembered and appreciated. *Mvto.*  
Concharty United Methodist Church members

We would like to thank all of our relatives and friends that who assisted us during our time of grief.

The prayers, food, flowers, and kind words of consolation will not be forgotten. *Mvto.*

Doretha Vincent Family

We would like to thank Rev. Alex Lowe, Nuyaka Baptist Church, friends, and relatives who came to offer food, flowers, donations, and comforting words during the loss of our loved one.

May God bless each one of you.  
Shirley Roberts Yargee Family



# The Muscogee Nation News

Volume 26, Issue 9

P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

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## Council races draw fifty-four; six unopposed

OKMULGEE — Fifty-four candidates filed for 26 Muscogee (Creek) National Council seats commencing officially the 1997 Muscogee Nation election season.

With one exception — Irene Cleghorn of Tulsa — each current representative is seeking reelection. Three other representatives, Steve Bruner of Broken Arrow, Ron Cleghorn of Tulsa, and George Tiger of Sapulpa, are seeking other seats from their respective districts. Six incumbents drew no opponents. They are: Larry Bible of Glenpool; Johnson Buck of Holdenville; Helen Chupco and Harley Little, both of Muskogee; Thomas McIntosh of Stidham; and Tommy Pickering of Eufaula.

The primary election is Oct. 25 with the general election Dec. 6. Absentee registration closes Oct. 1 and precinct registration closes Oct. 15. Any enrolled tribal citizen 18 years old or older with proof of valid citizenship is eligible to vote.

Registered tribal voters that have relocated are requested to report changes of address to the election board. Citizens that have not declared a district should do so in order to vote. For more information, contact the election board at: (918) 756-8700, ext. 350; or 1 (800) 482-1979.

One candidate challenge was lodged in the race for Tukvptce District Seat B by incumbent Thomas Yahola against David Yargee. Yahola contends Yargee does not meet the residency requirement for district representative. No date had been set for the hearing at press time.

Council representatives are compensated with a monthly stipend of \$800. The speaker and second speaker receive \$1,000 and \$900 monthly respectively. Representatives are authorized to receive expense reimbursements for travel, lodging, etc., as well as other expenses associated with the performance of their duties.

### Candidate filings

(i) = incumbent; candidates followed by community of residence

#### Creek District

##### Seat A

Earl Wheeler(i), Bristow  
George Tiger, Kellyville<sup>1</sup>

##### Seat B

Duke Harjo, Sapulpa  
Roger Barnett, Bristow

##### Seat C

Phyllis Warrington(i), Sapulpa

Roy Bear, Bristow

#### McIntosh District

##### Seat A

Tom Pickering(i), Eufaula

#### Seat B

Wilbur Gouge(i), Hanna  
Wilson Bear, Checotah

#### Seat C

Thomas McIntosh(i), Stidham

#### Muskogee District

##### Seat A

Helen Chupco(i), Muskogee

##### Seat B

Harley Little(i), Muskogee

#### Okfuskee District

##### Seat A

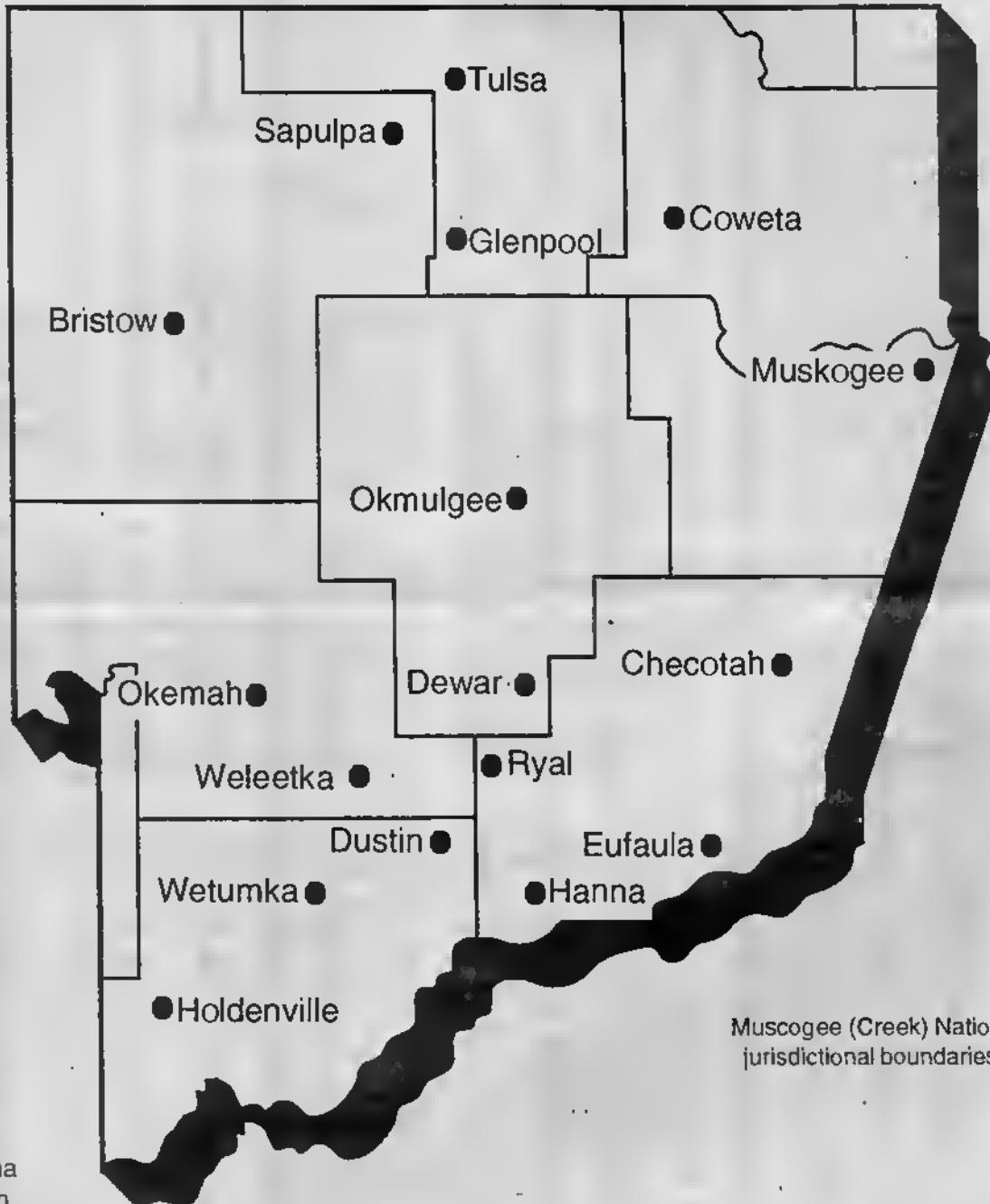
Nancy Watson(i), Okemah

Kent Fields, Weleetka

Famous Marshall, Okemah

please see CANDIDATES..., page 3

## Muscogee Election '97



## Muscogee Nation polling precincts

The above map and the following precinct locations are printed in accordance with National Council Act 81-82 at article 3, section 311.

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Oct. 25. For more information, contact the Muscogee Nation Election Board office at: (918) 756-8700, ext. 350 or write P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK, 74447.

Voting precinct addresses by district

#### Creek District

► Bristow Information Center

710 S. Main, Bristow

► Sapulpa Indian Community

225 E. Hobson, Sapulpa

#### McIntosh District

► Checotah Indian Community

998 Maple, Checotah

please see PRECINCTS..., page 3

## Notice to our readers

The printing of this edition of *The Muscogee Nation News* was delayed to provide information of the 1997 Muscogee (Creek) National Council election in this fiscal year which ends Sept. 30.

The Muscogee Nation Communications Department operates with a portion of the funds from the tribe's self-governance compact and the indirect cost pool. The entire appropriation for self-governance as determined by the tribe's annual funding agreement is \$3.7 million. Funding requests for self-governance programs totalled \$4.7 million. Overall, it is estimated the 1998 budget requests by all programs exceed all funds by \$2.8 million.

This is a tribe attempting to meet unlimited wants with limited resources. Programs receiving self-governance funds were told to cut operating budgets by 30 percent. Other federally funded programs will operate in FY 1998 at 100 percent.

In 1989, the communications department received \$272,000 and had a seven-member staff. For fiscal year 1997, the department received \$224,453 — \$175,686 from the self-governance compact — and has a staff of four. In an attempt to meet the administrative directive, approximately 29 percent was eliminated. The department is expected to receive \$126,183 in self-governance funds.

please see CUTS... page 8

## Letters to the editor

### Citizen reflects on Macon Editor:

The three of us leaned over the Otis Redding Bridge in Macon, Ga., watching the olive green waters of the Ocmulgee River rolling swiftly toward the Atlantic Ocean. We are as diverse as the city itself — a traditional medicine man, a woman of tradition and Christianity, and myself.

At dusk, the Macon traffic sped by, some honking with the intent to rouse us while we remained at the side of the bridge, fascinated by the history revealed below us.

Snapping turtles floated to the top as if to greet us. Catfish fed near the shore inching along gulping bits of food among the algae-covered rocks. The water had an oily coating but it did not detract from the importance of this great river in the lives of the ancient Mvskokulke.

Not far from us lay the great temple mounds of our ancestors. We climbed the mounds and viewed the skyline of the old southern town. But it was the river that held our interest, the river of a million memories for a million people.

We watched a man settle on the bank to cast his bait-laden hooks to the lazy catfish, full from their earlier feeding. With no bites, he moved on.

We might have seemed idle to the traffic, but the three of us withdrew into ourselves in an attempt to see the river as the Mvskokulke did when they fished, bathed, and swam in the water accompanied by the constant singing of cicadas.

I was reminded of hot summers, eating lunch while sitting on my cotton sack in Famine bottom. Macon: a paradise with memories and tears waiting for our children. We took our time, ignoring the vibration beneath our feet, as the large trucks rumbled across the bridge. Seldom, do we adults get to do this.

The large trees were placed in perspective by the river. Here and there was litter, but the river's dignity surpassed the undignified pollution. I wish to have seen the river in its earlier years when, perhaps, its water was clear. One glimpse backward in time would satisfy my soul's craving to see before De Soto's arrival, when tawny tinted men rowed their canoes following the river's lead to their tribal towns.

A hard life by our standard of living, but acclimated and existing in a sense of mystery whose solution eludes even the archaeologist. Oh Georgia, the hold you have on our hearts.

Her history is quiet this day. The three of us were still, feeling the river while drawing its fragrance. We imagined a time of the river's holiness when it was re-

vered. There on the banks of the river in July, our spirits revived by the holiness as we understood it, was again living within us.

Sandra Peters, Okmulgee

### El Reno man commends citizen

#### Editor:

The Oklahoma Indian Nation Powwow Committee held its annual powwow at Concho in August. A special dance was held in honor of Muscogee citizen Dave Jackson and Conner Cephus, a boy he rescued from a swollen river. Dave is a member of Oklahoma Indian Nation. Our club, along with many others, helped dance with Dave and Conner. This was a great honor for them and us.

On behalf of OIN, I want to share this good news with your readers. Perhaps there can be additional recognition for Dave. It is newsworthy to see a young Indian man do something so remarkable.

Amos Kaulaity, El Reno

**Editor's note:** Kaulaity is vice-chair of OIN. The report of Jackson's heroism appeared in the June edition of *The Muscogee Nation News*.

### The MNN criticized for excluding sculptor

#### Editor:

Having attended the Creek Nation Festival, I looked forward to the issue of *The Muscogee Nation News* with pictures and stories. I was particularly anxious to see credit paid to Muscogee citizen and Hickory Ground descendant, Dan Brooks. He is an artist who made the beautiful bronze bust of former Principal Chief Claude Cox. There was no mention of the artist. This fine young sculptor from Okemah is becoming known nationwide, but among his own people he is not even mentioned. Give credit where credit is due. Shame.

Martha Merideth, Okemah

**Editor's note:** The MNN accepts submissions from tribally enrolled artists and publishes their accomplishments regularly. Further, there was no photo opportunity afforded the MNN as Dan Brooks was not a part of nor even mentioned during the official ceremonial unveiling of the bust of Claude Cox bust.

## Clarification

Omulgee District Representative Dave Lewis was present at the May 24 regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council. A reporter's error listed him absent. It should have been reported Tukvptee District Representative Dwayne Lowe, did not attend the meeting.

## Legal notice

Printed in *The Muscogee Nation News*, volume 26, issue 9, September 1997.

In the matter of D.B. and M.B., minor Muscogee (Creek) children, case no. JV-95-50.

Notice of hearing to Charles Forebitt, the father of M.B., date of birth: 02-02-91; last known address P.O. Box 814, Talihina, Oklahoma, 74571.

You are hereby given notice of a hearing on the above-styled and numbered case for the purpose of termination of your parental rights in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, tribal complex at Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 12th day of November, 1997 at 9 a.m.

You are hereby informed that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remain ward of the court and custody be continued in the children and family services administration program for continued foster placement or possible preadoptive placement.

You are further informed that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of September, 1997.

(s) Patrick E. Moore, district court judge

## The Muscogee Nation News

*The Muscogee Nation News* is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the third Friday of every month. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate *The Muscogee Nation News* in any regard.

*The Muscogee Nation News* is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

James Wolfe, managing editor  
Stephanie Berryhill, senior staff writer  
Summer Barnes, secretary

## Chief vetoes proposed amendment

**OKMULGEE** — Principal Chief Perry Beaver has vetoed National Council Act 97-89 approved by the Muscogee (Creek) National Council at its August regular session.

The 26-member legislative body approved NCA 97-89 to change the spelling of the tribe's official name from The Muscogee (Creek) Nation to Muskokee Nation. The tribal constitution, adopted in 1979, establishes the official name of the tribe at Article 1 section 1, though the bill did not identify which sections of the constitution will be affected.

In his veto message, the Chief said amendments to the tribal constitution should be specific with each amended portion identified before being placed before tribal voters.

The proposed amendment was approved 24-1. Voting for the amendment were (representatives listed alphabetically, followed by district): **Richard Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa; **Steve Bruner**, Tulsa; **Johnson Buck**, Tukpvtce; **Helen Chupco**, Muskogee; **Irene Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **A.D. Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Barbara Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Anderson Hale**, Okmulgee; **Clyde Johnson**, Okfuskee; **Jess Kelley**, Tulsa; **Dave Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Harley Little**, Muskogee; **Dwayne Lowe**, Tukpvtce; **Abe McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **Thomas McIntosh**, McIntosh; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Tommy Pickering**, McIntosh; **Bruce Smith**, Okfuskee; **George Tiger**, Creek; **Phyllis Warrington**, Creek; **Nancy Watson**, Okfuskee; **Earl Wheeler**, Creek; and **Thomas Yahola**,

Tukpvtce.

Voting no was **Ron Cleghorn**, Tulsa. Speaker **Wilbur Gouge** conducted the meeting and did not vote.

The Council is expected to consider the veto message at its September meeting.

In other business, the Council:

- approved NCA 97-86 (23-1-1) authorizing the community development department access to its revolving fund account. Voting no was **Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes. Abstaining was **Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes;

- approved unanimously NCA 97-87 (25-0) an amendment to the Muscogee Nation Fuel Tax Act of 1995 (NCA 95-89);

- approved (23-3) NCA 97-90 a bill appropriating funds for honorariums to participating ceremonial grounds at the Council Oak Tree ceremony in Tulsa. Voting no were: **Warrington**, Creek; **Watson**, Okfuskee; and **Wheeler**, Creek;

- returned to committee (23-3) NCA 97-92 a waiver for the elderly nutrition program releasing their obligation for office space rental at \$16.50. Voting not to return to committee were: **Ellis**; **Lewis**, and **Nichols**, all of Okmulgee; and

- approved (24-1) NCA 97-73, a bill rescinding NCA 97-94. The Council had approved the purchase of 40.86 acres near 151st Street South and state highway 67 at its July session. A review of the land description precipitated the Council's action. Voting no was **I. Cleghorn**, Tulsa.

## Precincts

continued from page 1

### Eufaula Day Care Center

702 Forrest Ave., Eufaula.

### Hanna Indian Community

Two and three-quarter miles east of Hanna from state highway 52, Hanna

### Ryal School

From Henryetta, at 10th and Main streets drive south six miles, turn east on Artussee Road, and drive three miles.

### Muskogee District

#### Muscogee Indian Community

111 Virginia St., Muskogee

### Okfuskee District

#### Okemah Indian Community

1100 S. Division, Okemah

#### Weleetka School

6th and Seneca streets, Weleetka

### Okmulgee District

#### Dewar Indian Community

402 Luella St., Dewar

#### Okmulgee Indian Community

Three blocks east of U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56, Okmulgee

### Tukpvtce District

#### Dustin Indian Community

Two blocks north of junction of state highways 9 and 84, across from post office, Dustin

#### Holdenville Indian Community

416 E. Poplar St., Holdenville

#### Wetumka Indian Community

608 N. Creek, Wetumka

### Tulsa District

#### Glenpool Indian Community

13839 S. Casper, Glenpool

#### Tulsa Creek Indian Community

8611 S. Union, Tulsa

### Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes District

#### Koweta Indian Community

From state highway 51, drive east one and one-quarter miles to four-way stop; continue east for one-eighth of a mile, Coweta

## Voters asked to maintain current address with board

**OKMULGEE** — Muscogee Nation voters are asked to maintain their current address on file with the tribal election board. Failure to notify the board of address changes could cause delays as well as prevent citizens from receiving election related materials.

Enrolled Muscogee citizens who are not registered to vote may contact the election board for additional information. Absentee voter registration closes Oct. 1. Precinct registration closes Oct. 15.

Election board offices are located in the Solomon McCombs Executive Office Building at the tribal capitol complex, U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, contact the election board at: (918) 756-8700, ext. 350; or 1 (800) 482-1979, in Oklahoma.

## Candidates

continued from page 1

### Okluskee District

#### Seat B

Bruce Smith(i), Weleetka  
Wynema Roberts, Okemah  
Russell Thompson, Okemah  
Charles Coleman, Weleetka

#### Seat C

Clyde Johnson(i), Okemah  
Bill Fife, Weleetka

### Okmulgee District

#### Seat A

Dave Lewis(i), Yardeka  
Rocky McIntosh, Okmulgee  
Richard Larney, Henryetta  
Betty Gray, Okmulgee

#### Seat B

Anderson Hale(i), Mounds  
Eastman Whitlow, Morris  
Jim Harjo, Okmulgee

#### Seat C

Abe McIntosh(i), Okmulgee  
Jason Nichols, Okmulgee

#### Seat D

A.D. Ellis(i), Okmulgee  
Florence July, Morris  
Peggy Lyda, Okmulgee

#### Seat E

David Nichols(i), Okmulgee  
Shirley Almerigl, Wilson

### Tulsa District

#### Seat A

Larry Bible(i), Glenpool

#### Seat B

Kenneth Childers, Glenpool  
Steve Bruner, Broken Arrow<sup>2</sup>

#### Seat C

Earl King, Tulsa  
Okema Randall, Broken Arrow

#### Seat D

Earl Kelley, Tulsa  
Ron Cleghorn, Tulsa<sup>3</sup>  
Robert Hufft, Tulsa

#### Seat E

Jess Kelley(i), Tulsa  
Mary Sue Peak, Tulsa

### Tukpvtce District

#### Seat A

Dwayne Lowe(i), Wetumka  
James McGirt, Holdenville

#### Seat B

Thomas Yahola(i), Wetumka  
David Yargee, Wetumka

#### Seat C

Johnson Buck(i), Holdenville  
**Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes**

#### Seat A

Richard Berryhill(i), Coweta  
Mickey Primeaux, Coweta

#### Seat B

Barbara Gillespie(i), Coweta  
Delores Hamilton, Coweta

<sup>1</sup> Tiger, the current Seat B representative, filed against Wheeler Seat A.

<sup>2</sup> Bruner, the current Seat D representative, filed for Seat B vacated by Irene Cleghorn.

<sup>3</sup> Cleghorn, the current Seat C representative, filed for Seat D vacated by Bruner.

## Thlophlocco tribal town sues Interior secretary for funds

**MUSKOGEE** — Thlophlocco Tribal Town has filed suit against the U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt for more than \$1 million of federal funds and additional monies for damages and legal fees.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court in August, alleges Babbitt failed to reply to the tribal town's contracting proposal to administer programs and services under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act and for contracting with the Muscogee Nation for self-governance funds.

The act, known also as Public Law 93-638 was passed in 1975 and amended by P.L. 100-472 in 1988. The amendments established self-governance and the annual funding agreement as vehicles for transferring funds from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the tribe for the administration of programs and services.

The Muscogee Nation has negotiated compacts with the federal government since fiscal year 1994 to provide services to Indians within its jurisdictional boundaries. The nation expects to receive more than \$3.7 million for fiscal year 1998. Among the programs receiving self-governance funds are: higher education;

lighthorse administration; social services; credit and finance; and the communications department.

Thlophlocco is a federally recognized tribal town organized under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act. The tribal town has land holdings of approximately 2,200 acres and close to 600 members.

The tribal town attempted to contract for a law enforcement program in 1995. Since the nation provides law enforcement the proposal was denied by the secretary as federal funds cannot be distributed to the same service population.

Thlophlocco objected and issued statements of non-concurrence regarding the nation's compact agreements with the government. The Muscogee Nation is the receiving entity for self-governance funds and provides services to Thlophlocco members as well as the federally recognized tribal towns Alabama-Quarsarte and Kialegee.

Often cited as a justification for denying the town's proposal is overlapping membership or dual enrollment. Members of the three federally-recognized tribal towns have not been required to relinquish Muscogee Nation

citizenship nor denied services on that basis.

Grace Bunner, Thlophlocco chief, declined comment for this article citing the advice of the tribal town's attorney.

BIA Press secretary Thomas Sweeney said the government has filed a motion to dismiss the suit for lack of jurisdiction and because the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was not named as a defendant in the suit. Sweeney said there should be no affect on the fiscal year 1998 self-governance funding for the tribe.

Muscogee Nation Assistant Attorney General Jessie Durham said a ruling on the motions may not be given for some time. The motions will be considered in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma in Muskogee.

Durham said the tribe has taken no legal action regarding the matter since the Muscogee Nation has not been named as a party in the suit.

"Our position is the [Muscogee Nation] already provides the services to Thlophlocco as [they are] citizens of the tribe," Durham said. "The nation is much better suited to provide those services."



photo by Gerald Wofford

Muscogee Nation Lighthorse Administration and the children and family services program held a child abuse prevention education workshop in Okmulgee recently. Among the featured speakers pictured here were: Jim Starks, Kentucky State Police detective; Carla Cantrell, lighthorse administration investigator; Susan Samuel, Kentucky State Department of Social Services; and David James, Muscogee Nation Children and Family Services.

Pictured around Muscogee Nation Principal Chief Perry Beaver at the contract signing for the construction of the child care development center in Okmulgee were left: George Almerig; and Sandra Rice, contractor. Back row from left: Ed Marshall, community services director; Janet Selser, architect; Janet Wise, child care manager; Bob Schaefer, architect; and Ed Rice, contractor.



photo by Jim Wolfe

Council Oak Tree Ceremony will begin at 1 p.m., Oct. 11 at the corner of East 18th Street and South Cheyenne Avenue. Tulsa Creek Indian Community, with financial assistance provided by the Muscogee Nation, is hosting the event. The community will have an art market as well as other activities at the community center, 8611 S. Union Ave following the ceremony. For more information, contact TCIC at (918) 298-2464 or (918) 298-2465.

## People and events

### Annual diabetes camp dates scheduled

**WEWOKA** — Muscogee Nation Health Administration is hosting its annual diabetes camp Oct. 8 through 10 at St. Crispin's retreat. The purpose of the camp is to acquaint diabetics with a knowledge and understanding of diabetes, nutrition, medication, and all other aspects of living and coping with diabetes.

Attendance is open to any American Indian living with diabetes and residing within the Muscogee Nation jurisdictional boundaries. Participants family members may attend also. The camp will be held three days; two overnight stays are included at no cost to those attending. For more information, contact Janet Dockery at 1 (888) 623-4397.

### Health official to attend collegiate inauguration

**DENVER, Colo.** — Shelly Crow, policy analyst for Muscogee Nation Division of Health Administration, will participate in the University of Colorado School of Nursing Dean's Inauguration and Centennial Year Kickoff Oct. 30

and 31. Crow, a registered nurse with master of science degree in nursing, will be part of an informal forum and sit on a panel for discussion of cross-cultural partnerships for health care in the 21st century.

Crow, the former Muscogee Nation second chief, was invited to attend by the Patricia Walker, dean of the nursing school at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Her work has been published in academic journals about cultural sensitivity for health care providers and incorporating traditional medicine when treating Indian patients. She was chair of the tribal health board in 1990.

### Environmental, language care promoted

**TULSA** — The Committee on the International Decade of Indigenous Peoples of Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry will hold its fourth annual celebration of the United Nations-declared decade from 1 to 8 p.m., Nov. 15 at All Tribes Church, 2501 E. Archer.

The celebration will be held The CIDIP committee was formed in 1994 as a response to the United Nations' decla-

ration of 1995 through 2004 as the International Decade of the Worlds Indigenous People[s]. It seeks to protect and promote the human rights of indigenous peoples in areas such as education, culture, health, community development, and environment. For more information, contact Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry at (918) 582-3147.

### Sapulpa to hold bingo and food sale

**SAPULPA** — Sapulpa Indian Community will hold a bingo and food sale beginning at 6 p.m., Oct. 11 at its community center 225 E. Hobson. Bingo will follow at 7 p.m. Bingo packs are \$5 each.

### Confined group to hold stompdance

**LEXINGTON** — Joseph Harp Correction Center Confined Intertribal Group is holding a stompdance from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Nov. 1. Tribal citizen Robert Mitchell is coordinating the dance. The correctional center is located eight miles east of Lexington on 168th Street. For more information, call Doug Jenson, CIG sponsor, at (405) 527-5593.

## Student review

### Californian graduates from Smith College

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — Tribal citizen Melanie Anne Brown received her bachelor of arts in religion and biblical literature from Smith College recently.

She spent one week as a guest at the convent of Maryknoll Sisters, Maryknoll, N.Y., recently. Brown plans to travel to Brazil to study the Portuguese language and work with the Brazilian people in an urban cooperative and community for six months.

Brown plans to attend the University of Texas, Austin.

She is the daughter of W.J. and Gertrude Brown of Berkeley, Calif. Her grandmother is the late Bertha Brown of Henryetta. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Kogee and Peggy Fields of Hanna and the late Willie Brown of Weleetka.

### Girl attending young leaders conference

WASHINGTON — Eufaula High School student Beth Brown will represent Oklahoma as a national scholar at the National Young Leaders Conference to be held Oct. 21 through 26.

Brown, a junior at Eufaula, was selected by Gayle Schardt, her Spanish teacher, as an outstanding individual who has achieved academic excellence and



Brown



Starr

possesses strong leadership potential.

As a national scholar, Brown, along with other youth from throughout the nation, will meet with high ranking government officials, members of congress, representatives of the international diplomatic community, national media figures, and scholars. The intent of the learning experience is that the youth leave with a deeper understanding of democratic form of government that will equip them to take-on leadership challenges in the future.

Brown belongs to the Wind Clan and West Eufaula Baptist Church. She is the daughter of Jacqueline Brown and Gene Burris, both of Eufaula.

Her grandparents are Jack and Edna Belcher of Eufaula.

### Citizen awarded certificate of appreciation

WETUMKA — Paulette Starr was awarded a certificate of appreciation from the Muscogee Nation Job Training Partnership Act Summer Youth Program for being an excellent employee.

Starr worked at Wes Watkins Area Vo-Tech Center assisting with typing, filing, copying, and other

clerical duties.

Wes Watkins AVTC has hired her as a part-time employee to assist in the student services department. Starr began classes in WWAVTC's computerized application and design program in August.



Golden

### Pond Creek student makes all star team

POND CREEK — Pond Creek High School student Josh Golden made the Northwest All Star Baseball Team and honorable mention for all state baseball.

Golden ended the season with a .451

batting average, a .930 slugging average, and an on-base average of .571. He was selected player of the year for the All-Skeltur Baseball Team. He was chosen to play eight-man football at the all state game held in July at Alva.

Golden signed a letter of intent to play baseball for Kansas Newman College in Wichita, Kan. Golden played Legion Baseball at Blackwell this summer.

He is the son of Jerry and Linda Golden of Pond Creek.

Golden is the paternal grandson of Eugene Golden of Clearview and Lou Ann Harjo of Okemah. Mr. and Mrs. Ben Dayton of Pond Creek are his maternal grandparents.

## Events and announcements

### Sapulpa Indian program to hold pow wow

SAPULPA — Sapulpa Public Schools Indian Education Program will hold its 24th annual Indian heritage day pow wow Sept. 27 at the Creek County Fairgrounds.

#### Pow wow schedule:

- 2 to 5 p.m. — gourd dance;
- 5 p.m. — supper, no charge;
- 6:30 p.m. — gourd dance;
- 7 p.m. — grand entry, tiny tots exhibition, and junior division dance contest, ages 10 through 17.

The head staff will be: master of ceremonies, Jake Chanate, Kiowa; head singer, John Butler, Otoe-Kaw-Ponca; head man dancer, William Kimball, Osage.

Indian arts and crafts exhibitors are welcome; tables and chairs will not be provided. There is no set-up fee, although donations will be accepted. For more information, contact Laura Hurd, STEP, at (918) 224-9322.

### Fall arts institute offers teachers' workshops

STILLWATER — The Oklahoma State Department of Education has scholarships available for Oklahoma public school teachers to attend continuing education workshops at the 1997 Oklahoma Fall Arts Institutes.

The OFAI are an annual series of four day workshops in the arts for adults. The 1997 OFAI will be held on the campus of Oklahoma State University.

Workshops will feature instruction in: choral music, Sept. 25 through 28; theatre, Sept. 25 through 28; photo-

graphy, Oct. 2 through 5; the visual arts, Oct. 2 through 5 and Oct. 9 through 12; and writing, Oct. 23 through 26. A beginner's institute will offer introductory workshops in photography, creative writing, Cherokee basketry, creative movement and dance, and drawing and printmaking.

The scholarships are available to salaried public school teachers, media specialists, and administrators on a first-come-first-serve basis. Teachers attending the workshops can earn up to 18 staff development hours. Graduate credit is available also.

To receive application materials and a course catalogue, contact the arts institute at (405) 842-0890.

### Close Up Foundation seeks instructors

WASHINGTON — The Close Up Foundation is actively seeking a variety of instructors to work with high school students in the nation's capitol for a series of weeklong government studies programs.

Candidates for the positions must possess leadership skills and a college degree in political science, American history, international relations, education, or other related field. The paid instructors will be responsible for leading groups of students through curriculum that includes daily discussions, current events seminars, study visits to historical sites in the Washington area, and workshops on Capitol Hill.

For more information, contact Thomas Mangelsdorf at: (703) 706-3300; or write, 44 Canal Center Plaza,

Alexandria, Va. 22314-1592.

### Research council fellowship opportunities

WASHINGTON — The Fellowship Office of the National Research Council administers predoctoral programs in the following areas:

• Ford Foundation predoctoral and dissertation fellowships for minorities for research-based doctoral programs only. Deadline Nov. 15; and

• Ford Foundation Postdoctoral fellowships for minorities for those engaged in teaching and research careers. Deadline Jan. 5, 1998. For more information, contact NRC at 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington D.C., 20418.

### Wellness and spirituality conference slated

TUCSON, Ariz. — The University of Oklahoma Health Promotions Programs Department, a unit of the college of continuing education, is sponsoring a native wellness and spirituality conference Nov. 3 through 6.

The conference theme is 'Elders and Ancient Ways of Knowledge. Now in its seventh year, this conference features more than 40 workshops and presentations. Other conference activities include native arts and crafts, a powwow, a talent show, a social dance, and wellness activities.

Cost for the conference is \$195 per person. For more information, call (405) 325-1790.

## Arrivals

### Kaitlyn Factor

**ADA** — Kaitlyn Danielle Factor was born June 2 at Carl Albert Hospital to Ellie Barnett and Daniel Factor, both of Okemah.

The baby weighed 11 pounds, 14 ounces and was 22 and one-half inches in length.

She is the maternal granddaughter of Elliot Barnett and Della Proctor, both of Okmulgee.

Paternal grandparents are Noah and Lucinda Factor of Okemah. Paternal great-grandparents are Wilson and Ina Hicks of Okemah and Yahnna Factor of Wewoka.

### Pete and Anita Gomez

**OKMULGEE** — Pete William and Frances Anita Gomez were born July 7 at Okmulgee Memorial Hospital to Carman and Tony Gomez.

The baby boy weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces and was 19 and one-half inches in length. The baby girl weighed 5 pounds, 2 ounces and was 18 and one-half inches in length.

The maternal grandparents are William D. Chalakee of Okmulgee and Barbara Guerrero of Pendleton, Ore.

The paternal grandmother is Mary F. Moses of McAlester.

Great-grandparents are Uriah and the late Anita Alexander and the late Webster and Martha Chalakee.



Factor



P. Gomez



F. Gomez

### Muskogee baby celebrates first birthday

**MUSKOGEE** — Rachel Elizabeth Bell celebrated her first birthday on May 14 with a Barney party theme held in the home of her parents, Roger and Tammy Bell.

Those attending were: her grandparents, Kirby and Lillie Boen of Wainwright and Bob and Louise Bell of Muskogee; her uncle and aunt, Kirby and Tory Boen; and friends, Jim and Doris Wininger.



Bell

## Glenpool youth participate in community summer youth day camp

**GLENPOOL** — Forty-one Glenpool Creek Indian Community Center children enrolled in its six-week summer youth day camp.

Day camp program experiences included: arts and crafts classes in which the children were taught to make shields, vests, drums, and dreamcatchers by Angie Searcy, assistant director; storytelling by Bea Harrell, Sapulpa Public Schools Indian educator; months of the year and counting in the Mvskoke language by Jim Kelley, community member; drug, gang, and child abuse prevention education by Joey Christiansen, Sand Springs Police Department O.A.R.E. program officer.

The youth too trips to: Tulsa Zoo; the Muscogee Nation Tribal Capitol Complex where the children met Principal Chief Perry Beaver and viewed a film on Mvskokvlke peoples in the office of community

development manager Steve Landsberry; and the Creek Council House Museum, Okmulgee.



submitted photo

Day camp participants, left to right, Jonathon Watashe, Sonya Aldridge, Dana Watashe, and Kirsti Pahdopony visit with Principal Chief Perry Beaver.

### Citizen appointed to veterans commission

**OKLAHOMA CITY** — Muscogee citizen Jerry Riley has been appointed to the War Veterans Commission by Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating.

The state senate approved and confirmed Riley's appointment, sponsored by state Sen. Ted Fisher, in May. His term will end July 2000. The commission is the controlling board of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs and is responsible for carrying out the laws passed by the Oklahoma legislature. Additionally, it administers the Oklahoma veterans program through a director appointed by and responsible to the commission.

Riley is the son of Theodore Roosevelt and the late Ida Clinton Riley. His grandparents were the late Moese Riley and Mattie Lou Phillips Riley Bruner and the late George and Sallie Hodge Clinton. Riley attended Bristow Public Schools, the University of Tulsa, Rogers State College, and the American University in Washington D.C. He served in the Army and was stationed in Germany. He is a Vietnam veteran, also.

He is the former chair of the Muscogee Nation Election Board. Riley was instrumental in writing the 1979 tribal constitution. Among memberships and positions he holds are: national chair, Native American Veterans Inter-tribal Association; member, Oklahoma Veterans Council; life member, quartermaster, and service officer, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3656; state chair, VFW homeless veterans; and veterans advisory board member for U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe and Congressmen Tom Coburn and Steve Largent.

He and his wife, Margaret, reside in Bristow. They have five children; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

### Mvskoke coach inducted into hall of fame

**TULSA** — Over 900 career wins at the high school level earned Tiger Mountain tribal citizen Wiley Riley an induction into the Oklahoma Coaches Association Hall of Fame in July.

Ryal is a 1959 graduate of Dewar High School where he was an all-conference performer in football. He was an all-state selection in basketball, performing in the 1959 Oklahoma-Texas Oil Bowl Basketball Game. He attended Northeastern State College, earning all-conference honors as a Redmen cager. He received his bachelor of science degree in 1964.

Ryal began his career at Freeman, Mo. in 1964. He returned home and began coaching at Oewar in 1965. Other coaching jobs included Inola, Wynnewood, Dewar, Henryetta, and Dewar for a third and final time. His Oklahoma coaching career includes a baseball won-loss record of 449-151, a basketball coaching record of 441-173 and a two year record of 13-5 as a head football coach at Inola. During his career, his teams accumulated 32 conference championships, 34 district championships, 10 regional championships, four area championships, two state runner-up finishes, and one state championship in baseball at Dewar in 1978. He was a member of the Oklahoma Coaches Association for 26 years. During this time, he coached six all-staters, including his son, Mark, who would later play five years of major league baseball. He was a north all-state baseball coach in 1980 and coached the Oklahoma All-Stars vs. California in 1982. In 1989, he was named District 5 National High School Baseball Coach of the Year and Region 5 Baseball Coach of the Year by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association. Dewar Public Schools showed their appreciation to Ryal's coaching career by naming its baseball field Wiley Ryal Field recently.

Ryal is the son of Deer Clan and Thlophlocco Tribal Town. He is the son of the late Willie and Ruth Ryal, Henryetta. His grandparents were the late Bunn and Annie Gray Ryal, Ryal.

Wiley and his wife, Barbara, are retired and live on Tiger Mountain where he is raising Limousin cattle. They have two children and four grandchildren.



Ryal

# Shellie Barber Griffith

Shellie Barber Griffith was born to Robert T. and Alice Ann Barber on Sept. 7, 1895 in Indian Territory south of present day Glenpool.

As the family had squatter's rights to the land, the acreage near her birthplace came into her possession when her father chose the location for her allotment in 1902.

Shellie can still recall some details of her birthplace, a log cabin home. "We had two fire places in [the] log house — one in the south and one in the north. Around the turn of the century her paternal grandfather, Silas H. Barber, was afflicted with small pox. Fearing contamination, her family burned the log cabin and rebuilt about 80 feet south of the location.

Her introduction to institutional education via Wealaka Mission [near Leonard] was likely stark for a girl of 10, although she never resided at the boarding school just off the southern banks of the Arkansas River. Shellie's parents made the 20-mile round-trip journey daily, by wagon and team, for one school year to have her and her sister, Dovie, educated. The mission was built in 1881. According to Shellie, a second mission was built on land owned by two-term Muscogee Nation Principal Chief Pleasant Porter. Porter had donated the land to reestablish the mission on land adjacent to his allotment. Shellie said that Porter is buried a short distance from the school in a family cemetery.

She was raised on her allotment until 1907. The family then moved to her father's allotment near Twin mounds [around two miles west of U.S. Highway 75 on 151st Street near the Tulsa-Creek county line]. There they built a home and dairy farm. She attended Twin Mounds school. Seeking higher education, she rode the distance on her white pony when a school was built in Glenpool and attended through the eighth grade — the highest attainable level. After she graduated, she stayed home. Shellie contends she had the favor of her parents because she was the youngest of seven children. With the exception of some gardening, her responsibilities were few and chores were light.



Shellie remembers the days before the rural-community-turned-boomtown came to be known as Glenpool. She was distantly related to the family of its namesake. When Robert and Ida Berryhill Glenn excavated limestone for the foundation of their home in 1905, oil oozed from the cuts. Seven years before the Cushing-Drumright oil fields were tapped, the discovery of oil on the Glenn Pool Field was responsible for making Oklahoma a major oil-producing region. It brought an influx of drifters, drillers, and roughnecks also — thus creating the boomtown. She recalls that the terrain of the area, once predominantly uninhabited, was dotted with tent homes. It was coined "Tent City" for a period before it became known as "Glenpool."

By 1915 it would not be uncommon for small, rural Oklahoma communities such as Glenpool to turn into cities in a matter of weeks. Undoubtedly the onslaught of humanity, industry, and opportunity which followed the oil boom affected the local inhabitants.

please see *Allottee*...page 12

story and top photos  
by Stephanie Berryhill

## Quarterly treasury report, third quarter ending June 30, 1997

Program name	Receipts	Budget	Encumbered	Expended	Unencumbered
ICUSA	2,588	216,773	300	180,934	35,538
MCN Legal defense fund	3,521	87,337	0	13,035	74,302
Treasury	14,535	23,950	0	23,950	0
Litigatin and lobbyin	7,998	118,465	0	19,078	99,387
General taxes and licenses	724,952	1,644,580	8,969	1,249,398	386,214
Administration-indirect	1,060,636	2,110,403	11,168	1,352,988	746,247
Consumer loans	16,354	0	0	(51,160)	51,160
Creek Nation bingo	1,307,840	2,171,065	9,755	1,495,215	666,095
CN permanent fund	1,108,399	645,748	5,682	483,085	156,981
Tom Johnson permanent fund	129,308	0	0	15,102	(15,102)
Bear Steams permanent fund	6,924	0	0	0	0
Cultural preservation	679	0	0	0	0
Tribal budget	384,890	652,857	763	461,739	190,355
Tax commission	14,924	0	0	0	0
Divsion of human development	12,371	519,148	2,321	102,305	414,521
Indian home grant	310,280	665,858	20,473	323,135	322,250
Indian home program	74,175	1,035,000	35,598	94,699	904,704
Children and family services	320,515	375,731	7,253	320,961	47,517
1996 low inc. home energy asst.	7,379	7,425	0	7,379	46
1995 community dev. block grant	615,104	1,433,047	1,655	637,064	794,327
Head Start Project 2	753,963	1,128,147	639	753,962	373,546
Family preservation	101,628	148,896	26	105,713	43,158
Family violence prevention	12,707	54,635	0	12,689	41,946
1997 Low inc. home energy asst.	58,480	83,404	340	60,229	22,835
1996 Creek com. dev. block granl	130,944	1,553,494	333	161,962	1,391,199
CCDBG 1997 mandatory funds	340,417	2,326,368	30,828	368,063	1,927,478
Head Slart 1997	597,761	1,018,770	5,334	630,781	382,655
Title IV-B	126,743	233,402	114	135,642	97,646
Division of tribal affairs	373	0	0	0	0
Divsion of human development	20,774	24,990	0	20,884	4,107
Archeological investigation	3,317	16,802	0	3,317	13,485
Library service - basic	0	4,557	0	30	4,527
Food distribution	173,946	282,640	150	186,176	96,314
Muskogee Head Start	62,565	38,308	0	20,132	18,176
Head Start USDA reimbursement	70,121	61,374	5,800	53,127	2,447
Eufaula dorm activity fund	1,840	0	0	0	0
Election board	11	0	0	0	0
Citizenship boord	3,929	4,200	0	3,374	826
Revolving fund	165	164	0	0	164
Before end after school care	5,110	35,691	0	15,169	20,521
Before and after school care	4,433	0	0	0	0
Self-governance compact	4,946,651	5,198,818	44,350	3,396,607	1,757,861
Division of human development	16,615	96,311	8,133	21,372	66,806
Eufaula dormitory	1,149,056	1,125,133	32,733	755,873	336,527
Tribal self-governance	14	1,299	0	1,299	0
BIA transportalion improvement	5,450	5,450	11	5,374	64
Self-govemance negotiating grant	31	1,315	0	1,150	165
Comprehensive planning	0	392	0	0	392
Dvision of tribal affairs	496,760	546,928	200	536,821	9,907
JOM early chlldhood	250	0	0	0	0
Johnson O'Malley educelion	220,953	199,792	0	220,364	(20,572)
Transportation improvement	26,903	46,529	0	27,942	18,587
Kellyville bridge	540,197	835,750	118,785	546,085	170,879
JOM early childhood	12,854	12,905	0	0	12,905
Johnson O'Malley	964,699	954,055	452	295,448	658,155
Employment and training	24,389	46,618	0	513	46,104
Employment and training	614,665	681,064	0	659,405	21,659
1996 Head Start	39,528	39,560	0	39,528	33
Violence against women	2,947	82,192	4,085	6,611	71,496
Children's justice program	32,422	57,138	0	33,545	23,593
Community centers projct	216,788	796,259	25,182	192,409	578,668
Community services building	20,360	6,789	0	2,475	4,314
Travel plaza enterprise	427,273	168,947	4,919	1,944,747	(1,780,719)
Travel plaza	1,800,000	1,649,416	21,445	1,676,673	(48,702)
ICDBG - learning center	0	739,959	1,600	0	738,359
Tribal agricultural program	7,783	22,761	0	4,121	18,640
Lighthorse services	172,426	393,210	0	271,709	121,501
Communications revolving fund	1,003	100	0	0	100
Muscogee Nation flags	113	0	0	0	0
Roads equipment pool	387,359	188,683	5,885	114,713	68,086
Motor vehicle	275,385	173,825	18,805	97,352	57,668
Child development center	16,523	0	0	0	0
Real property and facilities	729,044	911,311	8,240	678,640	224,431
Property and supply	141,455	208,353	6,890	169,825	31,638
Capital improvements	139,634	69,025	0	0	69,025
CN foundation fund donation	2,731	0	0	3,377	(3,377)
Festival committee	775	2,060	0	25,335	(23,275)
Totals	22,025,632	39,985,175	449,215	20,989,471	12,546,490

## Quarterly treasury report narrative

In accordance with National Council Act 88-70, section 112, as amended by NCA 89-37, the following information for the period ending June 30, 1997 discloses the receipts, budget, encumbrances, expenditures, and unencumbrances for all funds under the control of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The receipts are dollar amounts received for the first three quarters of FY 1997. The figures include but are not limited to federal dollars received on grant or contract, interest earned during the quarter, and revenues generated by the tribe. The total dollars spent represent the amount spent to date for the first two quarters ending June 30, 1997.

The budget figure represents the amounts approved as of June 30, 1997 in the annual comprehensive budget.

The encumbered amounts include figures derived from outstanding purchase orders at the end of the quarter.

Expended amounts state the total amount that has been spent for each department, within that fund.

Unencumbered figures reflect the net available for each department at the end of June 30, 1997. Any questions regarding this report may be directed to the office of the controller at (918) 756-8700, ext. 250.

## Cuts

continued from page 2

Of that amount, \$48,265 will be spent for office space rental (increased \$3 to \$16.50 one year ago) and indirect cost (the money the tribe uses to administer its support services). Discretionary spending for the department, including personnel, postage, supplies, etc., is approximately \$77,900. Quite simply, the communications department cannot produce and distribute *The Muscogee Nation News* in its current format. No decision has been made regarding the frequency of publication if any, in FY 1998.

Continue to address correspondence to Summer Barnes, Stephanie Berryhill, and Gerald Wofford in care of the communications department at P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Other programs receiving self-governance funds are: adult vocational training; children and family services; citizenship; community development; credit and finance; cultural preservation; election board; higher education; home improvement; lighthorse administration; natural resources; office of justice; policy research; road construction; realty services; and social services.

## Obituaries

### PATRICIA JEAN ANDERSON

**PRESTON** — Funeral services for Patricia Jean Anderson were held Sept. 10 at Tallahassee Church with Revs. Sammy Chupco and Joe Lowe officiating.

Anderson was born Dec. 1, 1929. She died Sept. 6 at a Tulsa hospital.

A eulogy was given by her nephew, Theodore Checote Waller. Her nieces, Jean Rhodes and Tiffany Williams, performed "Amazing Grace" on the flute and clarinet.

Anderson was preceded in death by her father, Samuel Anderson; her mother, Martha Gibson Anderson; a sister, Elaine Anderson; and a brother, Samuel Anderson Jr.

Survivors include: two sisters, Imogene Wilkinson and Jorene Coker; and one brother, Vernon Anderson.

Interment was in the Tallahassee Cemetery.

### DOUGLAS HARDING

**YPSILANTI, Mich.** — Funeral services for Douglas Lee Harding were held at Community Church of God with Rev. David Harding officiating.

He died July 3, 1997. He was born May 18, 1928 in Beggs to Oscar Harding and Alice Hanson. He was raised by the late Will and Elizabeth Hanson. Harding was baptized at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church and served as a deacon of the church. Later, he joined Community Church of God.

He was president of the Laborers Local Union No. 959, Ann Arbor, Mich. He was secretary-treasurer for the State of Michigan Laborers District Council, Lansing, Mich. Harding retired from Barfield Manufacturing Company, Ypsilanti, in 1987.

He is survived by his wife, Bertha Mae; one brother, Leroy Ceasar; six daughters, Patricia Cole, Alice Barnes, Gwendolyn Frazier, Cheryl Ventour, Rochelle Gardner, and Angela Wimberly; seven sons, Douglas Jr., Jesse, Eddie, Kenneth, Anthony, David, and Rickey; 30 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; relatives; and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and one brother, David Yargee.

Pallbearers were: Harold Wimberly; Douglas Harding Jr.; Patrick Cole; Eddie Harding Sr.; Rickey Harding; Robert Ventour; Dana Barnes; and Coley Cole.

Interment was in Washtenong Memorial Park, Ann Arbor Township, Mich.

### JESSE SULLIVAN

**BROKEN ARROW** — Funeral services for Rev. Jesse James Sullivan were held July 12 at the First United Methodist Church with Rev. Harry Long officiating and Newman Frank Jr. assisting.

Wake services were held July 11 at Shurden Funeral Home. Sullivan died July 8 in Tulsa. He was born Nov. 26, 1920 in Okemah to Obey and Louisa Cook Sullivan.

Sullivan married Leona Tiger in Tulsa on April 6, 1950. He was a lithograph pressman at Scott-Rice Print Shop before entering into the ministry. He attended: Central High School in Tulsa; Cook College of Theology; Phoenix Junior College in Arizona; Washburn University in Topeka, Kan.; Christian Renewal Center in Oklahoma City; Lake Texoma Pastors School; and Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas. He was the first person to complete requirements for the ministry in the Oklahoma Indian Mis-

sionary Conference.

He was an ordained elder of the United Methodist Church. Sullivan attended the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, and completed the course of study for the 21st Annual Session of the Utah School on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies. He organized Alcoholics Anonymous at Yuma Mission, Yuma, Ariz., and served on the board as chaplain to its halfway house. He organized the Topeka Mission Church in 1961; the church was renamed the J.J. Sullivan Chapel. He organized the Lawrence Mission Church, Lawrence, Kan., in 1962. He was enlisted in Who's Who of the United Methodist Church in 1964. Among positions he held in the ministry: pastor, 18 local churches; OIMC Northeast District Superintendent, two years; and West District Superintendent, four years. Sullivan was an OIMC interpreter also.

He served on the Tulsa Cooperative Ministries Board and the Skyline Ministries Board in Oklahoma City. Sullivan was a member of Springtown UMC and the Northeast District Retired Minister Fellowship. He retired from the ministry on June 9, 1997.

He was a member of Thlophlocco Tribal Town and served as first warrior for four years. Sullivan was a veteran of World War II, serving with the U.S. Navy First Class USNR from 1943 to 46; he was honorably discharged. He served in the National Guard of the U.S. Private Service Co. 180th Infantry.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Richard and Jack; and one sister, Hettie Burgess.

Survivors include: his wife of the home, Broken Arrow; two sons, James Lee of Tulsa and Obie B. of Broken Arrow; and one daughter, Peggy Tune of Roff; one sister, Mary Lou Smith of Matawan, N.J.; six grandsons; and two great-granddaughters; nieces; and nephews.

Pallbearers were: Dusty Miller; Warren Hakeah; Wendell Autobo; Luther Johnson; Johnny Johnson; and Winslow Johnson. Honorary pallbearers were OIMC pastors.

### MICHAEL TIGER

**TULSA** — Funeral services for Michael "Skipper" Ray Tiger were held Aug. 5 at Nine Garden Chapel with Revs. John Fixico and Dion Francis officiating.

Tiger died Aug. 1 at his home. He was born July 6, 1942 to Prentice and Hettie Mae Tiger. He belonged to the Bear Clan and Koweta Tribal Town.

He graduated from Rogers High School. Following graduation he moved to Oklahoma City. He attended and was baptized at Westlawn Baptist Church. He was employed at Oklahoma Graphics for 16 years. Upon moving to Tulsa in 1993, he served as Sunday school superintendent at Wekiwa Baptist Church in Sand Springs.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Tiger is survived by: one son, Jason Winston Tiger of Anadarko; and two daughters, Danieala Jean Tiger of Anadarko, and Samarian Mae Tiger of Oklahoma City; two brothers, Robert James Tiger, and Prentice



Sullivan

Daniel Tiger, both of Tulsa; three sisters, Sharon Elaine Neil, Louise Wisdom, both of Tulsa, and Charlene Keah-Tigh of Miami; nephews; nieces; and cousins.

Pallbearers were: J.R. Wisdom; Matthew Wisdom; Michael Wisdom; Roger Butler; Vincent Thomas; Darren Keah-Tigh; and Dan Fisher.

### Gratitude

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to those that called, visited, sent flowers, and those that sent cards before and after the death of our loved one.

A special thank you is extended to Springtown United Methodist Church for preparing a wonderful evening meal. We thank the following also: Muscogee Nation; Rev. Harry Long; Newman Frank Jr.; Davis Chapel UMC; Thlophlocco Tribal Town; Koweta Indian Community; the color guard; pallbearers; and Shurden Funeral Home.

Your kindness and thoughtful expressions of sympathy are appreciated and gratefully acknowledged—we pray that God will continue to bless all of you.

Rev. Jesse Sullivan Family

### Religion

Pickett to hold fund-raising catfish dinner

**SAPULPA** — Pickett Chapel United Methodist Church is holding a catfish dinner to raise funds to incur the cost of its new church building on Oct. 4.

The dinner of white filet catfish, beans, coleslaw, dessert, and a drink will cost \$5. From state highway 117 in Sapulpa, turn south on Hickory Street and drive four and one-half miles; the church is located on the west side of the street.

Butler Creek to hold gospel singing

**OKTAHA** — Butler Creek Baptist Church is holding a gospel singing at 7 p.m., Oct. 4. The masters of ceremonies will be Curtis Kinney and Spook Wesley. All singers are encouraged to attend. Concessions will be available.

From U.S. Highway 69, take the Wainwright exit and drive east to Oktaha Road. Turn south and drive one-half of a mile. Turn east at the Butler Creek sign and drive two miles; the church is on the south side of the road.

Wekiwa Baptist to hold October revival

**SAND SPRINGS** — Wekiwa Baptist Church is holding a revival Oct. 8 through 12 at seven nightly. Drive four miles west of Sand Springs on U.S. Highway 64, exit north at Wilson Street exit. Turn south and drive one mile. For more information, call (918) 622-6648.

Berryhills to emcee Yeager gospel singing

**YEAGER** — Yeager United Methodist Church is holding a gospel singing at 7 p.m., Oct. 11. Berryhill's Quartet will be the masters of ceremonies. All singers are welcome.

From Holdenville, drive one mile east on U.S. Highway 270, turn north on Yeager Road and drive six miles. From Wetumka, drive three miles south on U.S. Highway 75, turn west on Yeager Road and follow posted signs for seven miles.

## Tribal health administration staff listing

In accordance with National Council Act 89-07, a list stating all tribal positions and the names and step level of persons in those positions shall be published in *The Muscogee Nation News*. The list is accurate as of August 1, 1997. This list was prepared by the division of health administration.

### Grade-Step Employee

#### Okemah Health System

Grade-Step Employee	Position
12-1 Don Ade	Deputy administrator
12-3 Phillip Barnoski	Health system administrator
4-7 Tim Cheek	Discharge planner
7-1 Essie Gambler	Patient advocate
11-7 Rick Mathews	Management analyst
7-1 Janet Moore	Site manager
6-3 Doris Sullivan	Administrative assistant
8-7 Allen Wind	Patient benefits coordinator
1-3 Kimberly McNac	Post base exchange operator
9-5 Elvania Swayze	Business office manager
1-3 Janell West	Business office clerk
4-6 Weaver Cheek	Environmental technician
4-7 Larry Conway	Environmental technician
1-6 Anna Crawford	Housekeeper
1-2 Joseph Crawford	Housekeeper
1-1 Jesse Givens	Housekeeper
1-5 Tiger Hobia	Housekeeper
1-1 Naomi Killian	Housekeeper
1-2 Don Stephen	Housekeeper
1-3 Dorothy Fixico	Cook
2-1 Carolyn Fultz	Head cook
1-1 Chem Guinn	Cook
1-6 Shela Leeth	Program assistant
3-3 Susie Lindsey	Dietary manager
1-3 Karla Titsworth	Cook
1-4 Kimberly Allen	Unit clerk
5-6 Patty Barnett	Licensed practical nurse - part-time
10-3 Robert Bray	Registered nurse, physical therapist
9-8 Betty J Brown	Employee health nurse
5-2 Stephanie Cotton	License practical nurse
5-3 Patricia Hoagland	License practical nurse
5-2 Nancy Duncan	License practical nurse
5-3 Rinda Famis	License practical nurse
9-5 Tom Grace	Registered nurse
1-5 Tonya Guinn	Nursing secretary
3-1 Elizabeth Standley	Medical staff secretary
5-10 Theresa Hargrove	License practical nurse
5-3 Geneva Harjo	License practical nurse
11-2 Ledonia S Henry	Registered nurse - part-time
5-9 Maxine Hill	License practical nurse
9-3 Sharon Immel	Registered nurse
5-6 Abbie Lamey	License practical nurse
9-6 Renee McKee	Registered nurse
5-3 Vickie Mead	License practical nurse
9-4 Cindy Parton	Registered nurse
1-1 Jennifer Prince	Nurse assistant
5-5 Kathy Putman	License practical nurse
2-9 Margaret Roberts	Unit clerk
1-4 Kendis Rogers	Registered nurse
9-4 Gery Russell	Registered nurse
9-1 Roberta Sala	Nurse practitioner
12-6 Sandra Heath	Registered nurse
10-5 Sheryl Sharber	Licensed practical nurse
5-1 Lucinda Simpson	Registered nurse
10-3 Laura Slayton	Infection control nurse
9-7 Lydia Snyder	Director of nursing
12-1 Teresa Stafford	Nurse aide
2-8 Helen Tiger	Registered nurse
9-4 Jannet Titsworth	Registered nurse
10-3 Linda Walker	Licensed practical nurse
5-1 Linda Yahola	Pharmacy technician
5-6 Betty Griggs	Transcriptionist
3-13 Tina Frank	Medical records clerk
1-11 Patricia Frye	Medical records clerk
1-3 Susan Giles	Medical records clerk
1-2 Jennifer Harjochee	Medical records clerk
1-1 Delores Herrod	Medical records clerk
1-4 Edverda Hightower	Coding clerk
7-5 Paula Logan	Accredited records technician
1-2 Lori McKinney	Dutpatient/emergency room clerk
1-2 Louise McNac	Dutpatient/emergency room clerk

1-3	Patricia Postoak	Dutpatient/emergency room clerk
9-9	Lerena Roberts	Medical records supervisor
1-7	Tina Thompson	Medical records clerk
9-4	Christine Coker	Registered nurse
10-7	Cynthia Franks	Registered nurse
5-3	Charlotte Kennedy	License practical nurse
5-9	Brenda Lowe	License practical nurse
3-1	Geraldine Mull	Scrub technician
6-3	Lisa Dawson	Radiologic technician
6-6	Sheldon Frank	Radiologic technician
6-3	Kathy Greb	Radiologic technician
8-7	Sallie Bear	Radiology supervisor
6-8	Mehraban Khodadadian	Radiology technician
6-2	Kay Ward	Radiology technician
1-2	Andra Barnett	Phlebotomist
1-5	Chumona Polecat	Lab secretary
9-2	Lori Erls	Medical technologist
9-1	Margaret Epperson	Medical technologist
11-6	Sammy Hill	Lab supervisor
5-3	Brent Parks	Medical lab technician
5-4	Deanna Wallace	Medical lab technician
5-1	Tammy Walker	Medical lab technician
9-2	Wendell Whitlow	Medical technologist
9-2	Charles White Jr.	Medical technologist
2-8	Bobby Gunter	Respiratory therapist technician
4-4	Mike Patterson	Respiratory therapist-part time
6-4	Shirley Reed	Respiratory therapist
9-9	Alma Bridgeford	Registered nurse, emergency room
9-4	Jamie Thomas	Registered nurse, emergency room
MS	David East	Physician
MS	Richard Hudson	Physician
12-6	Christine Jones	Physician assistant
MS	Mark Sullivan	Physician
MS	Won Sull	Physician
12-6	Aaron Wade	Physician assistant
3-3	William Brown	Paramedic
1-1	Douglas Brown	Emergency medical technician
3-4	Steven Butler	Paramedic
3-3	Nathan Capps	Paramedic
1-5	Travis Cates	Emergency medical technician
2-1	John Cates	Emergency medical technician
3-4	Glen Fahringer	Paramedic
1-2	Leroy Harjo	Emergency medical technician
3-3	Larry Hofegartner	Emergency medical technician
2-9	Tom Ned	Emergency medical technician
1-1	Scott Randall	Paramedic
1-5	Frank Sanders	Emergency medical systems supervisor
3-4	Lary Seidell	Unit clerk
10-1	Tommy Sparks	Work clerk
1-3	Tamara Berryhill	License practical nurse
1-2	Frances Miller	Physician
5-4	Patricia Cheatham	Dispatcher
MS	Jon Bradley	Physician
3-1	Jesse Watashe	Dispatcher
1-3	Frederick Francis	Transporter
3-6	Sharon Hicks	Transporter
1-3	Terry Mosley	Transporter
3-9	Christine Roberts	Transporter
1-5	Claudia Sanders	Transporter
1-3	Kerry Sowder	Transporter
1-3	Jackson Lowe II	Housekeeper
5-1	Josephine Anderson	License practical nurse
9-5	Danna Brison	Registered nurse
1-5	Henrietta Tarpalechee	Nurse assistant
2-5	Cynthia Dan	Pharmacy technician
12-7	Joe Milligan	Pharmacist
2-5	Stephanie Pigeon	Medical records clerk
1-2	Betsy Proctor	Medical records clerk
1-2	Betty Smith	Medical records clerk
2-5	Ethel Humble	Dptometric aide
MS	William Galvin	Physician
15-5	Kevin Helmuth	Dptometrist
12-8	Kanoi Roberson	Physician assistant
MS	Lawrence Vark	Physician
3-1	Rhonda London	Insurance clerk
<b>Behavioral Health Services</b>		
MS	Sandra Choney	Director
6-3	George Coser	Substance abuse counselor
11-7	Alice Coe	Assistant director, child psychologist
4-9	Mary Lee	Counselor

## Health employees

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1-3	Leah Parish	Secretary	2-1	Anita Smith	Medical clerk
2-8	Gale Smith	Office manager	6-5	Vicki Coleman	Radiology technician
6-7	Daley Tearl	Substance abuse counselor	4-2	Sandra Blackwood	Dental assistant
			4-6	Joyce Edwards	Dental assistant
			4-5	Sharon Juarez	Dental assistant
			MS	Phillip Berry	Physician
			12-10	Jeanette Harjo	Physician assistant
			MS	Kathy Stubbs	Physician
			9-2	Rhonda Alexander	Public health nurse
			5-3	Kellie Briggs	Public health nurse, licensed practical nurse
			11-7	Sharon Floyd	Nursing supervisor
			3-1	Beatrice Lowe	Insurance clerk
			3-1	Janice Fowler	Dispatcher
			5-6	Elizabeth Shipley	Community health representative coordinator
			2-7	Floyd Bales	Community health representative
			3-2	Lillie Colbert	Community health representative
			3-4	Etta Dickerson	Community health representative
			3-1	Cynthia Gilks	Community health representative
			4-4	Janetta Harjo	Community health representative
			3-3	Bonnie Jones	Community health representative
			2-6	Mary Ann Kane	Community health representative
			4-4	Chiquita McNac	Community health representative
			3-5	Virginia Nichwander	Community health representative
			3-9	Augustine Thompson	Community health representative
			4-4	Susie White	Community health representative
			4-9	Ethel Wyatt	Community health representative
			4-9	Debra Yeahquo	Community health representative
			3-9	Clara Yuponco	Community health representative
			3-4	Richard Beaver	Community health representative
			4-4	Terry Lunsford	Community health representative
			3-5	Rex Watson	Community health representative
			2-5	Johnny Billy	Community health representative
			11-7	Janet Dockery	Community health representative
			3-5	Martha Givens	Community health representative
			3-6	Collene Jones	Community health representative
			4-8	Lona Scott	Community health representative
					Elderly nutrition program
			6-1	Willie Ahdunko	Information-refferal specialist
			H5-10	Wiyiquita Bear	Cooks side
			H3-6	Deborah Burgess	Van driver
			6-1	Millie Colbert	Lead cook supervisor
			H2-7	Ethelene Conley	Cooks aide
			4-2	Lisa Dennis	Secretary
			H6-4	Lilly Dyer	Head cook
			H2-7	Joe Francis	Cook aide
			H3-6	Rose Garbow	Cook aide
			H2-8	Timothy Harley Jr.	Cook aide
			H5-10	Ruby Johnson	Head cook
			H4-2	Rose Kelly	Head cook
			H5-9	JoAnna King	Head cook
			6-1	Janet Lee	Food distribution coordinator
			H5-10	Shirley Littlehead	Head cook
			H2-9	Francine Lowe	Cook aide
			H4-2	Elsie Lowery	Head cook
			H2-7	Minnie Poole	Cook aide
			H2-8	Shemie Riley	Cook aide
			H2-9	Edward Scott	Van driver
			H6-1	Lucille Squirrel	Head cook
			H4-3	Shirley Thompson	Head cook
			H2-8	Betty Tiger	Cook aide
			6-3	Lou Tilley	Nutritionist
			10-1	Linda Webb	Elderly nutrition manager
					Supplemental food program for women, Infants, and children
			2-2	Karen King	Intake clerk
			2-2	Mabel Williams	Intake clerk
			9-3	Audrey Dennis	Supervisor
					Administrative support
			13-3	Allen Core	Staff attorney
			3-1	Gerogeann DeLuane	Administrative secretary
			12-1	JoAnn Skaggs	Deptuy director
			15-6	Myron Taylor	Director
			12-1	Christy Tayrien	Internal auditor
			7-2	Rachel Thomas	Executive assistant
			5-4	Kara Green	Administrative assistant
			5-3	Phenie Bencoma	Payroll technician
			9-8	Scott Bosen	Supervisory accountant, accounts payable
			8-3	Gina Burgess	Payroll coordinator
			5-1	Evelyn Child	Accounting technician
			9-4	Thomas Givens	General ledger accountant
			9-8	Denice Hicks	Accountant, fund management

## Allottee

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Taking advantage of the local economy, Shellie's father owned and operated a drug store on what is currently known as Main Street and Broadway. According to family genealogy records, he became the first sheriff of Glenpool in 1907.

With the growth of the area's populace, commercial entertainment in the form of beer joints and dance halls were in demand.

"When I was young you could buy anything you wanted to down pool hall, gambling shacks."

One of her favorite pastimes was riding her pony as well as dancing — whether it be at square dances held in peoples' homes or in the lodge above her father's store.

"I helped knock the dust out of a lot of floors. I had a lot of fun. I had a lot of fun with them [boys] — buildin' them up and let 'em down. I had a lot of fun doing it. I had one in Nashville and one in Kansas. I was never pretty, but I sure had a lot of fun."

She married Sim Griffith in 1915. Shellie met Sim, a railroad worker, in the home of her sister, Dovie [Horner]. It was common for local families to board migrant workers because of the lack hotel room availability. Shellie jokes that he "just blew in like a lot of the oil workers."

**Editor's note:** Shellie does not own her original allotment. She had deeded 160 acres of the unrestricted land to her descendants; 150 acres of the land remain in her family. Her allotment is located just east of the intersection of U.S. Highway 75 and 151st Street. Her family leases most of the land for pasture.

Her paternal grandparents were Silas H. and Sarah Ann Posey Barber. Her paternal great-grandparents were Benjamin and Liza Berryhill Posey. Shellie's great-grandmother, grandmother, and father belonged to Broken Arrow Tribal Town. Her mother, Alice, was not Mvskoke thus Shellie does not have a tribal town, but would be considered the daughter of Broken Arrow Tribal Town.

She had two sons, the late Howard and Earl Griffith. She has five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter.

Her husband died in 1961. Shellie resided at her home independently until her 101st birthday. She currently lives with her daughter-in-law, Dorothy, just west of her home on a portion of her allotment which she had given her son, Earl. Her great-granddaughter, Simmie Berry, and her family reside there currently.

She votes in Muscogee Nation elections regularly. Shellie is likely the eldest living member of the Muscogee Nation.

According to tribal citizenship board records, original enrollee Wesley Robert Lynch [also known as Robert Wesley Childress], 108 years, is living. It is likely that family members have not notified the citizenship board of his demise. The last tribal record of Lynch's address is Brazoria, Texas, reported to the board in 1984. Muscogee Nation Communications Department attempts to verify the status of his vital statistics via the U.S. Postal Service, Brazoria, Brazoria County Historical Society, and longtime citizens of the City of Brazoria have been futile. It is requested that individuals with information regarding Lynch [aka Childress] contact Stephanie Berryhill at: P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447; or (918) 756-8700, ext. 326.



Pictured, left to right, are: Shellie; her mother, Alice; and her sons, Howard and in front, Earl.

## Health employees

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9-1	Angela McElhannon	Accountant third party billing
5-2	Mike Riley	Accounting technician
2-1	Stefanie Robison	Accounting clerk
5-1	Sherry Sharp	Accounting technician
12-1	Bradley Stanton	Chief financial officer
5-3	Penny Strunk	Accounting technician
4-5	Reta Tiger	Travel coordinator
5-1	Benita Tiger	Accounting technician
2-1	Irene Washington	Accounting clerk, travel
7-2	Robyn Whitecloud	Automated financial systems specialist
5-1	Kristi Yahola	Accounting technician
12-1	Helen Burgess	Public relations
7-1	Etta Conner	Secretary
12-1	Shelly Crow	Policy analyst
10-8	Edwina Fisher	Contract health case manager
12-1	David Jukich	Employee health nurse
1-1	Pamala McFemin	Courier
12-1	Ron Russell	Health planner
9-3	Sheng Grogan	Statistician
8-3	Lanita Smith	Crediting specialist
MS	Guy Sneed	Chief medical officer
12-1	Hollis Stabler	Managed care officer
6-1	Lucas Taylor	Public relations technician
9-1	Gene Lee	Integrated financial accounting system
11-1	James Mercer	Senior systems administrator
5-5	Jolie Ogden	Internal records management
7-7	Tommy Stewart	Telecommunications specialist
4-1	Judy Thomas	Secretary
12-1	Lucien Berryhill	Chief acquisitions, budgets officer
9-7	Susie Brown	Budget analyst
7-1	Sequoah Locust	Budget specialist
5-3	Clemma Luellen	Budget technician
9-1	Gary Thayer	Contract analyst
3-8	Charles Henneha	Property officer
1-4	Bernice Sealy	Inventory clerk
11-3	Leonard Waggoner	Property management officer
9-1	Laura Harjo	Acquisition specialist
3-5	Darlene Henneha	Acquisition technician
1-7	Franklin Lowe	Supply clerk
1-1	George Scott	Supply clerk
7-1	Carolyn Tonx	Acquisition technician
3-3	Billy Fields	Environmental technician
7-2	David Logan	Maintenance supervisor
3-6	Donnie McNac	Environmental technician
6-3	Betty Scott	Housekeeping supervisor
3-3	Richard Tilley	Environmental technician
1-4	Barbara Woods	Housekeeper
8-3	Sandra Golden	Employee relations specialist
9-5	Bret Hayes	Human resources specialist
8-2	Regina Quinton	Human resources generalist
7-3	Bert Robison	Human resources generalist
7-3	Russell Torbett	Human resources recruiter
1-9	Mary Williams	Secretary
10-1	Tresa Gouge	Legal liaison

## Reunion briefs

### Francis family

**ARTUSSEE** — The Francis family will hold its 10th annual family reunion at Artussee Baptist Church Sept. 27. All family members are encouraged to attend and bring a covered dish.

### Chalakee family reunion report

**WILSON** — The family of the late Webster and Martha Chalakee attended a reunion recently. Nine of the couple's 10 children were present: Virginia Kolakowski of Tulsa; Tom Chalakee of Okmulgee; Bill Chalakee of Okmulgee; William "Bunky" Chalakee of Okmulgee; Stella Harjo of Tulsa; Thelma Harjo of Arlington, Va.; Sharon Chalakee of Okmulgee; Margie Jacobs of Okmulgee; and Donna Pickup of Salina. Also attending was their uncle and aunt, Ruben and Peggy Chalakee of Okmulgee; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren; cousins; and friends. Around 60 family members attended.